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ONE-POUND GOSPEL

3

STORY AND ART BY
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
GERARD JONES

ONE-POUND GOSPEL
No. 3

Story & Art by Rumiko Takahashi

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ONE-POUND GOSPEL

RUMIKO TAKAHASHI'S HEAVEN-SENT MANGA KNOCKOUT, ONE-POUND GOSPEL, MOVES FROM THE PAGES OF ANIMERICA, ANIME & MANGA MONTHLY TO ITS OWN MONTHLY COMIC!

Kosaku Hatanaka is the first pro boxer ever produced by Mukaida's Gym, Kosaku is also the bane of his coach's existence. Although he's constantly waging war against his appetite, Kosaku never met a meal he didn't like! Naturally, this plays havoc with his weight class. Junior bantamweight, bantamweight, junior featherweight...every time he moves up a class, his coach's hopes plummet. Isn't gluttony a sin?

Sister Angela is a young novice nun who's dedicated, passionate, and convinced that we should give peace a chance. Although she refuses to acknowledge it, it's obvious that Kosaku comes to St. Mary's for more than confession. He comes to see the smile of the beautiful sister, of course! Can her faith redeem the gluttonous appetite of the tempted lamb astride the scale?

Name: **COACH MUKAIDA**
Identity: BOXING COACH
Notes: Can Coach coax/force Kosaku to stick to his diet until his next match?

Name: **MOTHER ABBESS**
Identity: NOVICE NUN COACH
Notes: Can the Mother Abbess coax/force Sister Angela to give up her ambiguous friendship with Kosaku?

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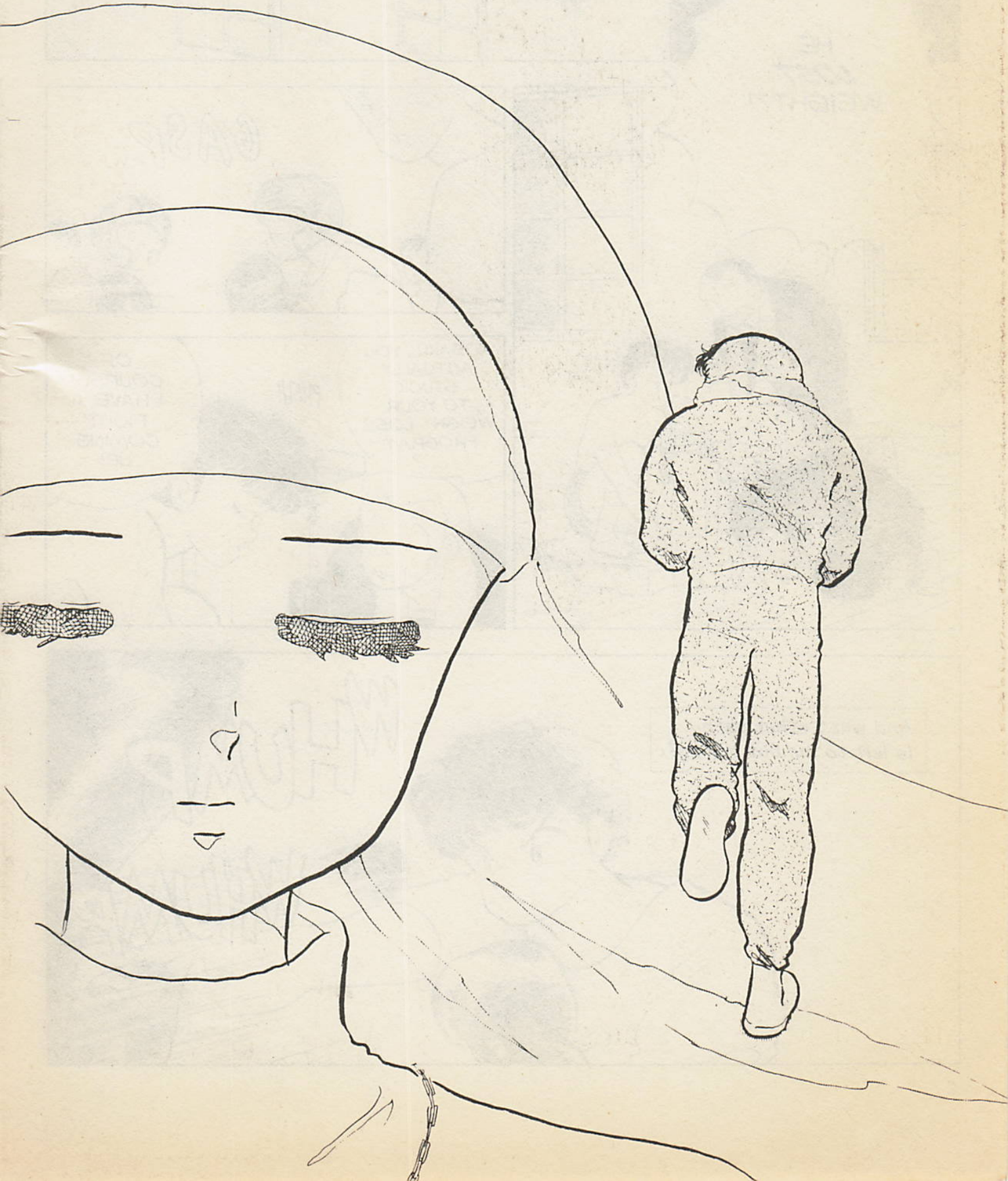
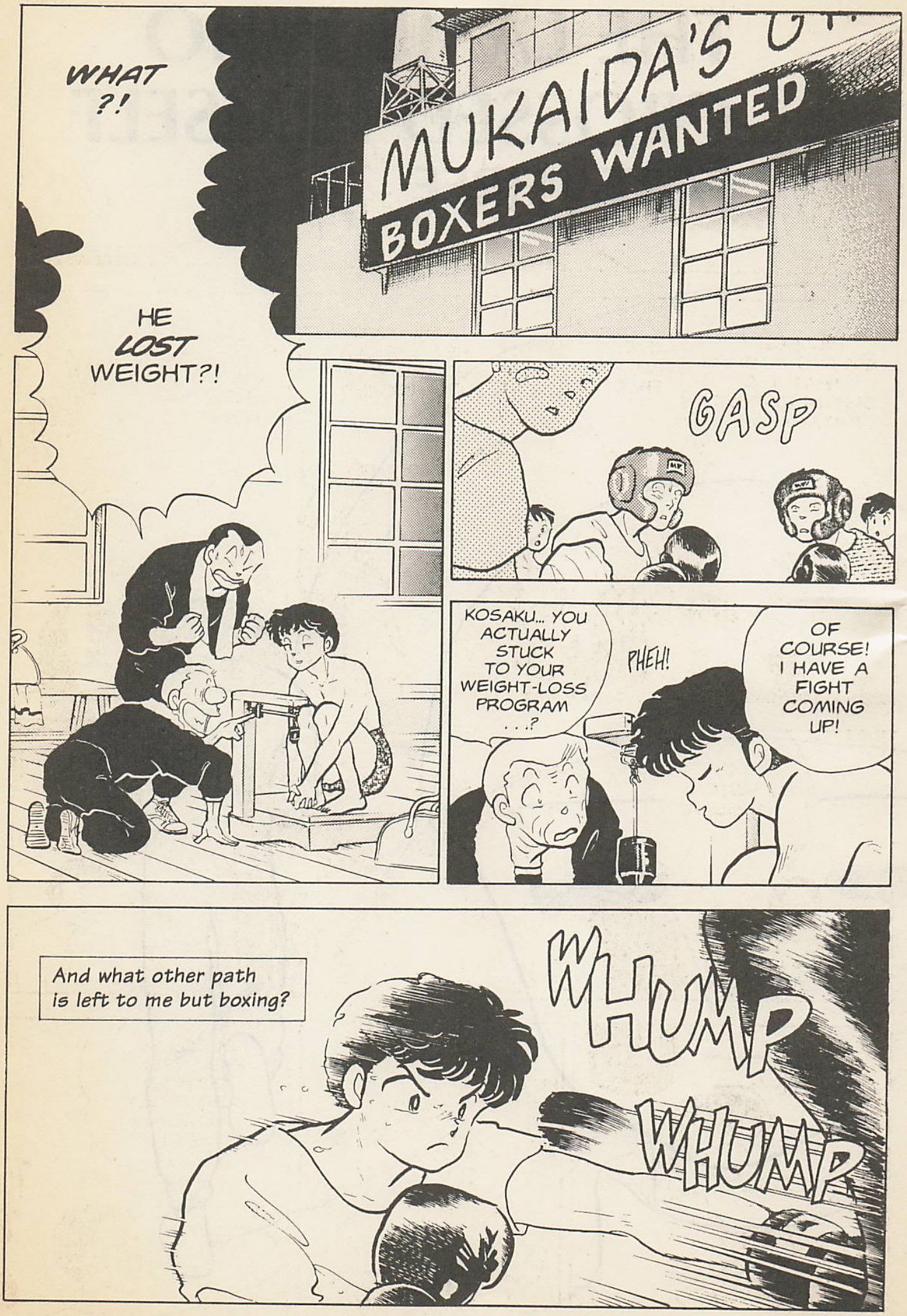
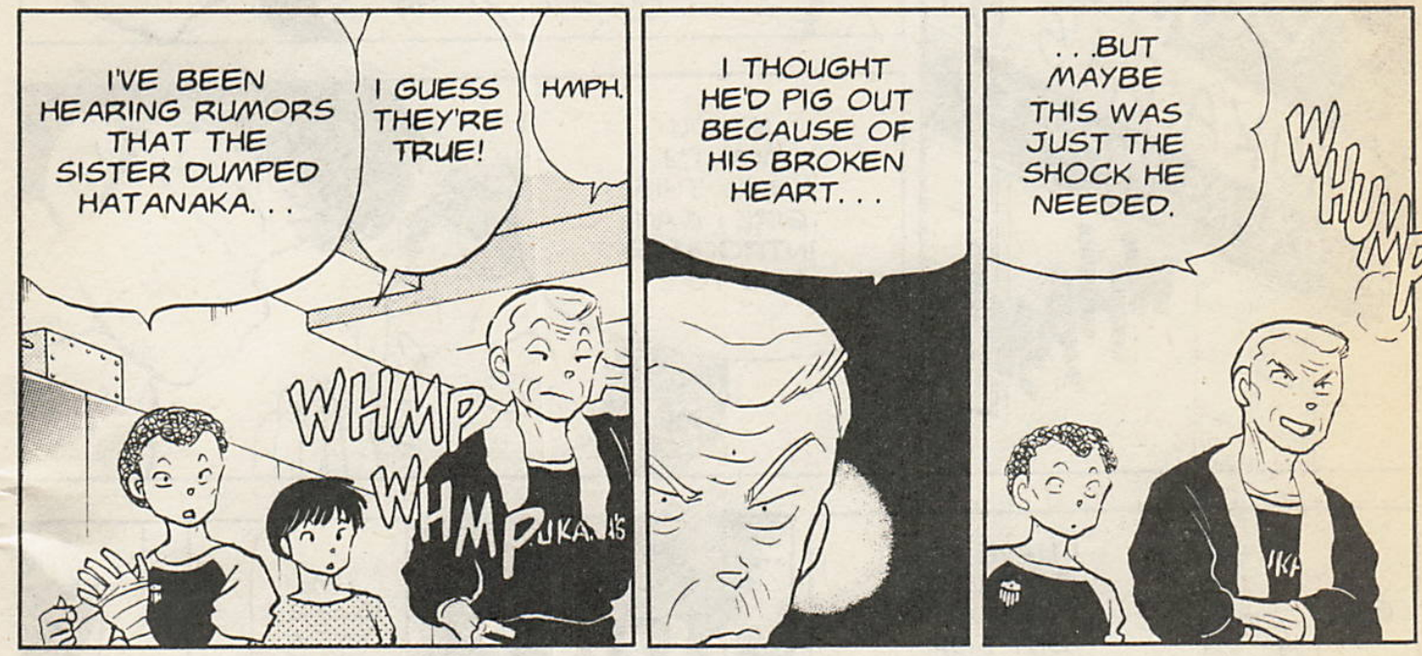
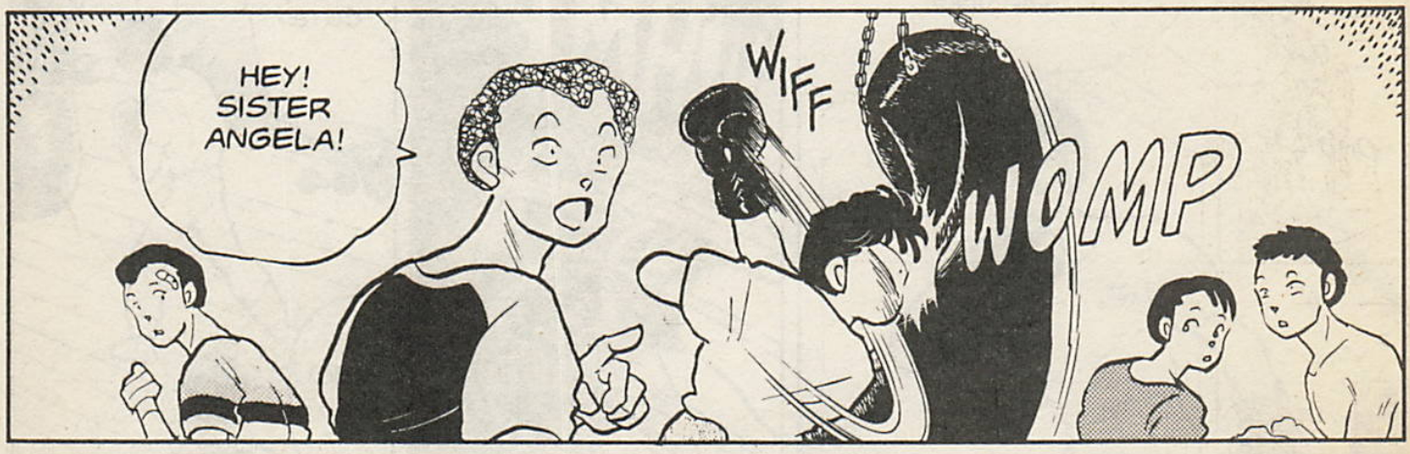
THE LAMB WHO CROSSED HIMSELF
PART THREE

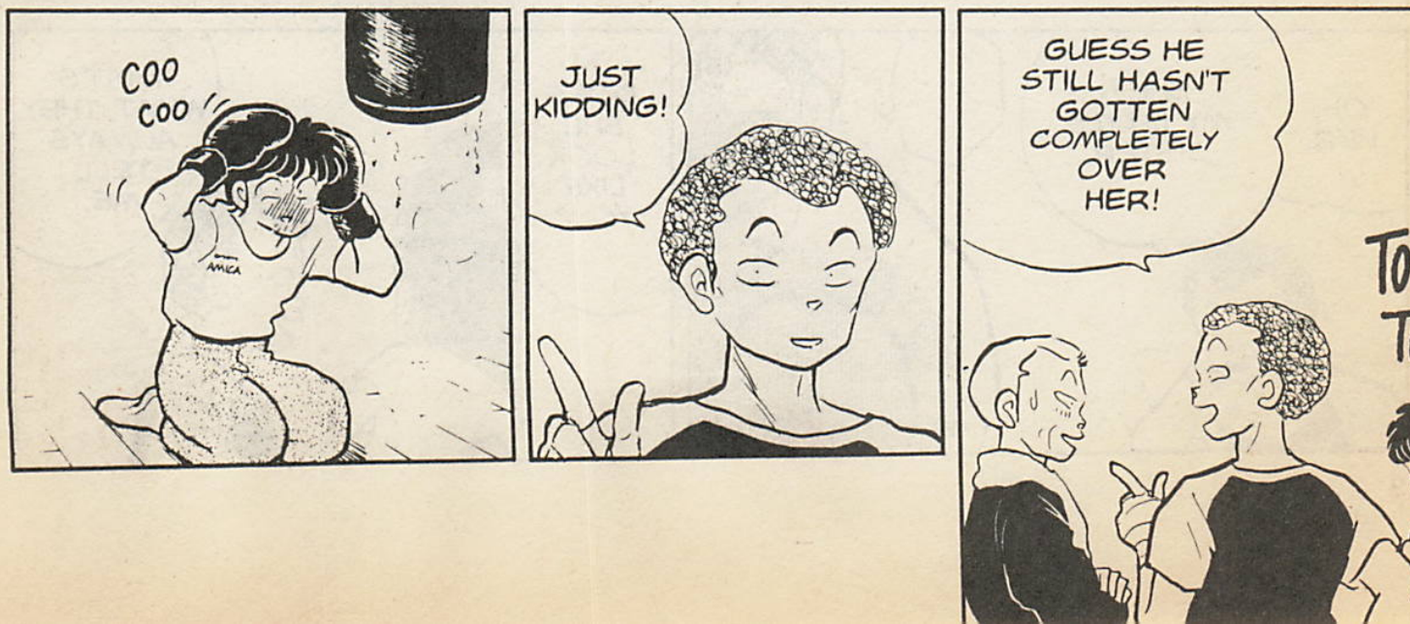


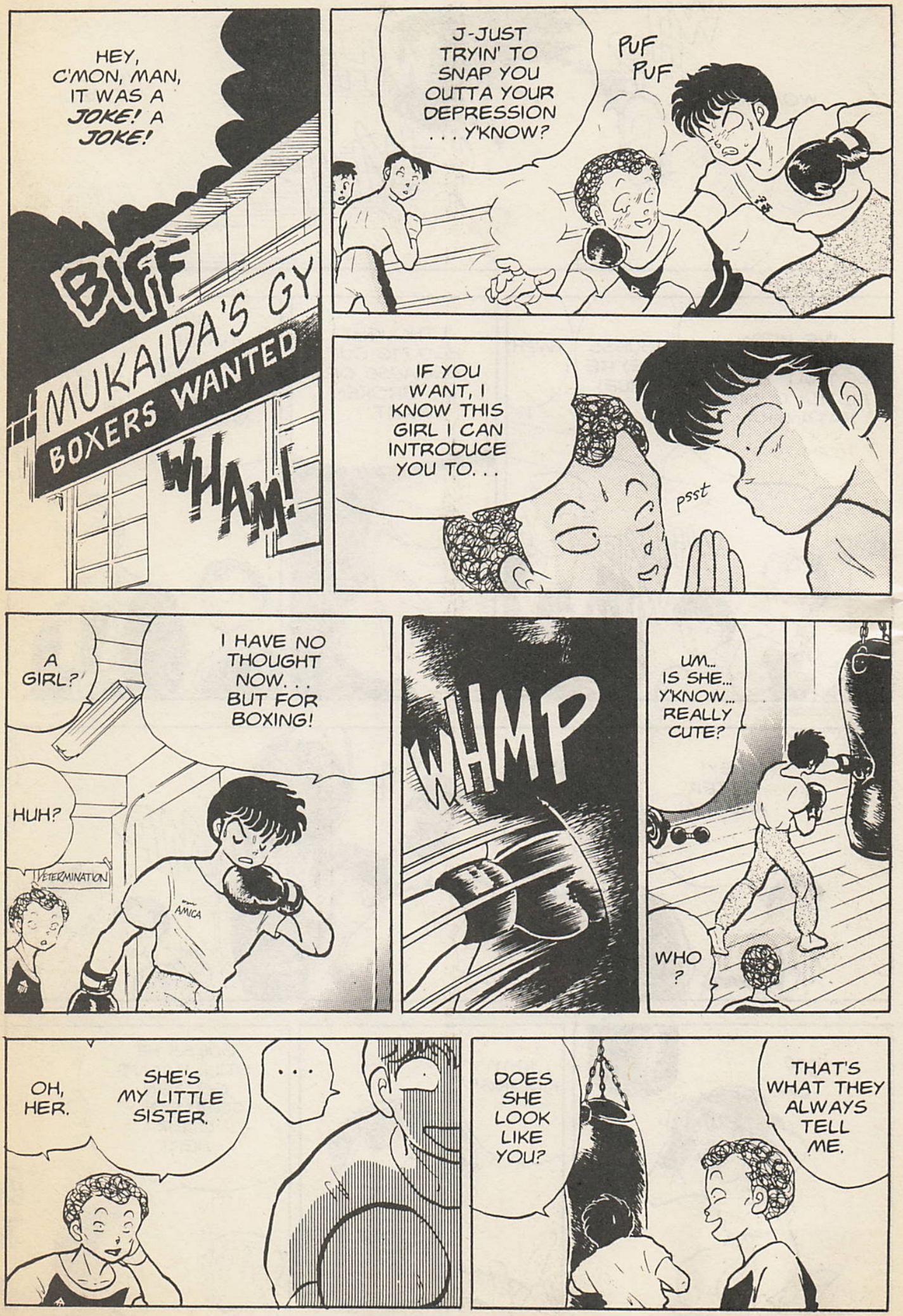

WHAT ?!
MUKAIDA'S G
BOXERS WANTED
HE LOST WEIGHT?!
GASP
KOSAKU... YOU ACTUALLY STUCK TO YOUR WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM . . .?
PHEH!
OF COURSE! I HAVE A FIGHT COMING UP!
And what other path is left to me but boxing?
WHUMP
WHUMP

WHP
WHP
WHP
WOMEN!
WOMEN!
WOMEN!

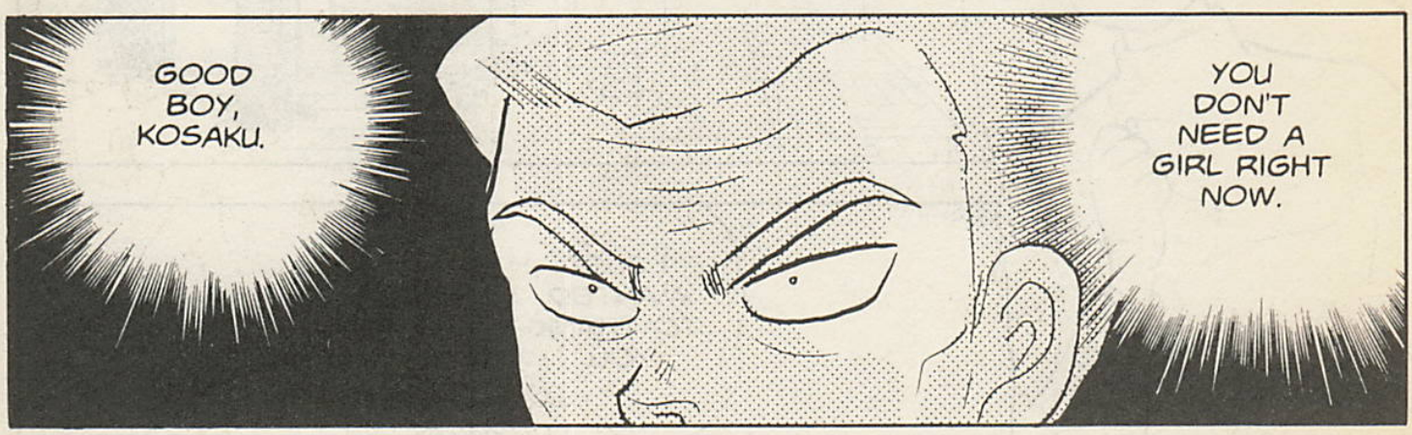

I'VE BEEN HEARING RUMORS THAT THE SISTER DUMPED HATANAKA. . .
I GUESS THEY'RE TRUE!
HMPH.
WHMP
WHMP
I THOUGHT HE'D PIG OUT BECAUSE OF HIS BROKEN HEART. . .
. . .BUT MAYBE THIS WAS JUST THE SHOCK HE NEEDED.
WHUMP

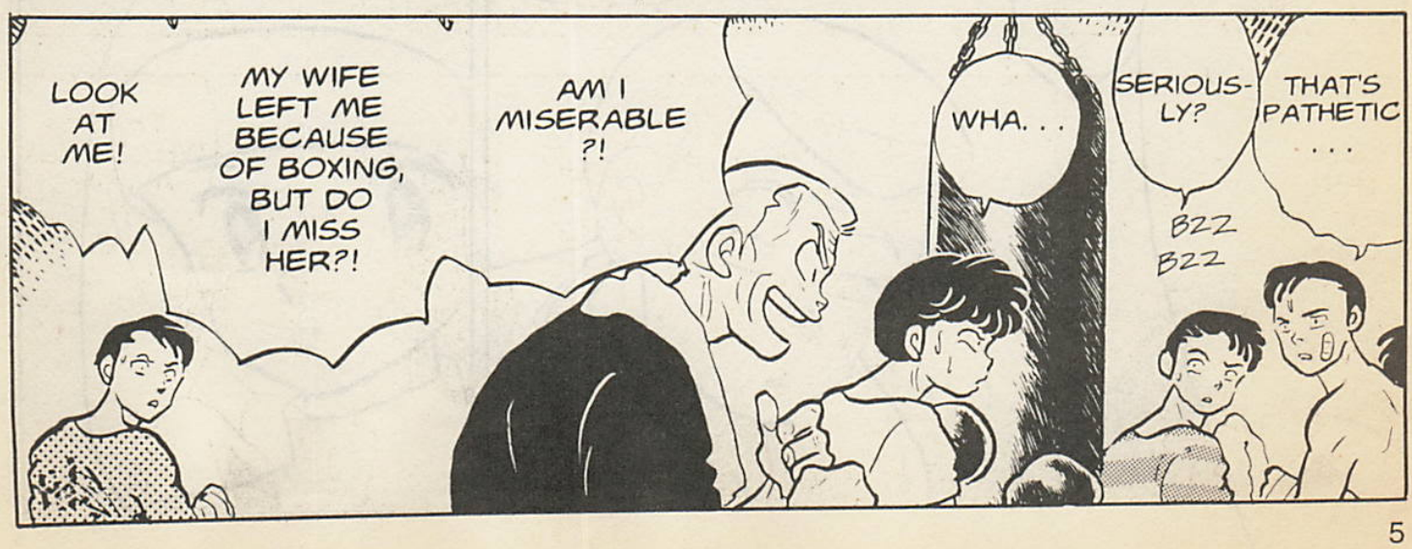

HEY! SISTER ANGELA!
WIFF
WOMP

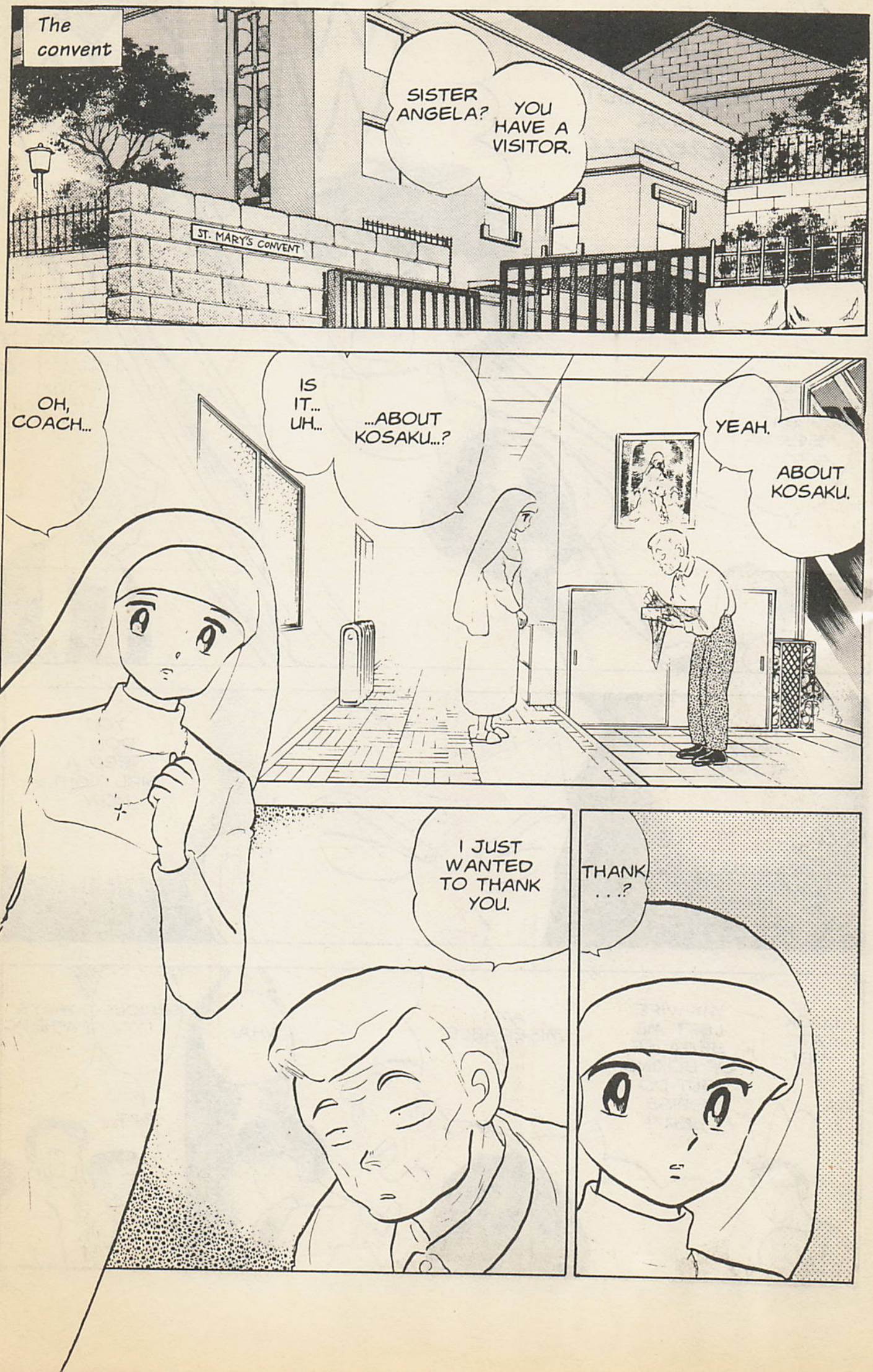

COO
COO
JUST KIDDING!
GUESS HE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN COMPLETELY OVER HER!
TOOM
TOOM

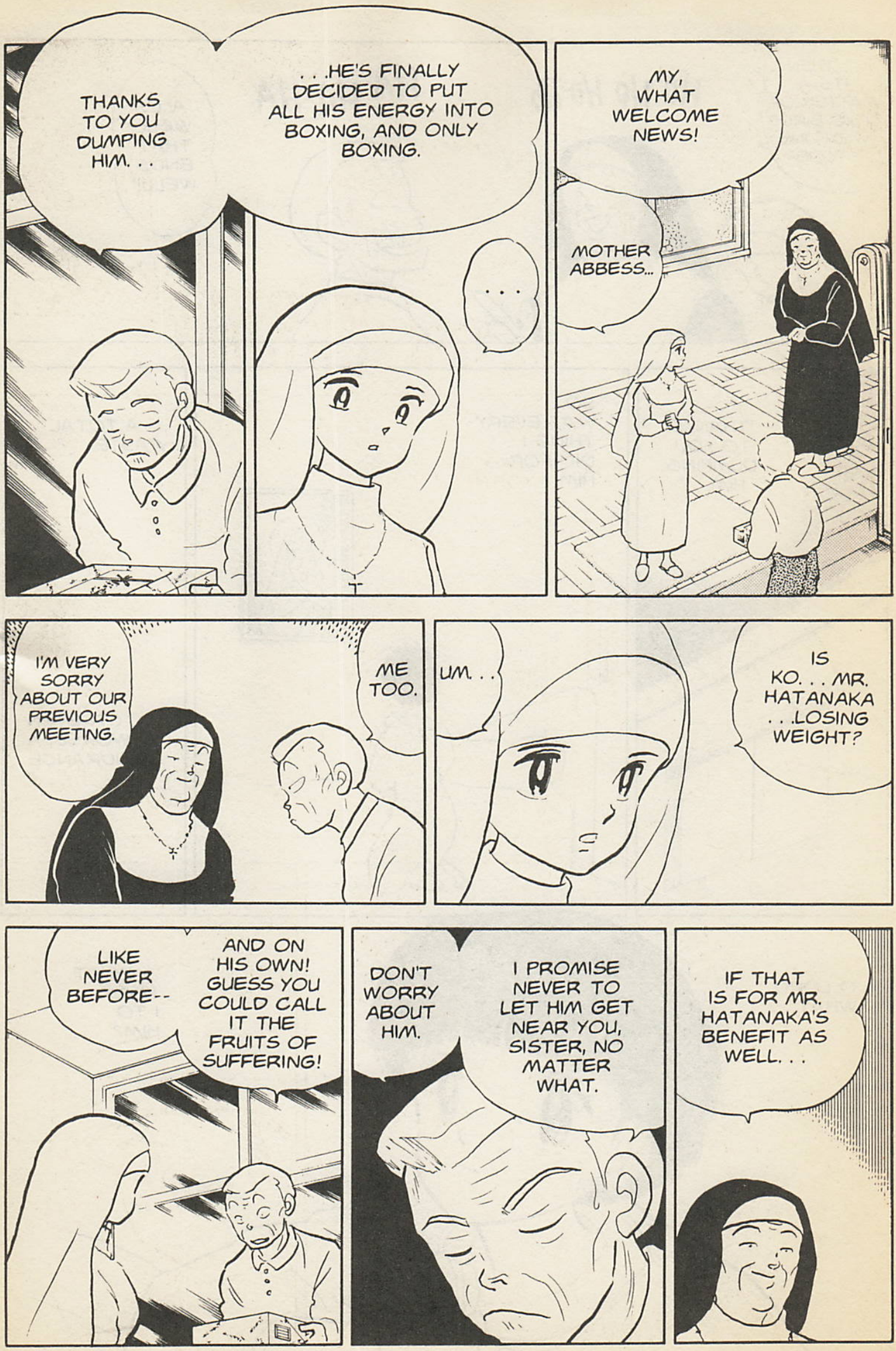

HEY, C'MON, MAN, IT WAS A JOKE! A JOKE!
BIFF
MUKAIDA'S GY
BOXERS WANTED
WHAM!
J-JUST TRYIN' TO SNAP YOU OUTTA YOUR DEPRESSION . . . Y'KNOW?
PUF PUF
IF YOU WANT, I KNOW THIS GIRL I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO. . .
psst
A GIRL?
I HAVE NO THOUGHT NOW. . . BUT FOR BOXING!
HUH?
VETERMINATION
AMICA
WHMP
UM... IS SHE... Y'KNOW... REALLY CUTE?
WHO ?
OH, HER.
SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER.
. . .
DOES SHE LOOK LIKE YOU?
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS TELL ME.

NO THOUGHT NOW. . . BUT FOR BOXING!!
WHOO
SHE'S GOT A GREAT PERSON-ALITY. . .
. . .

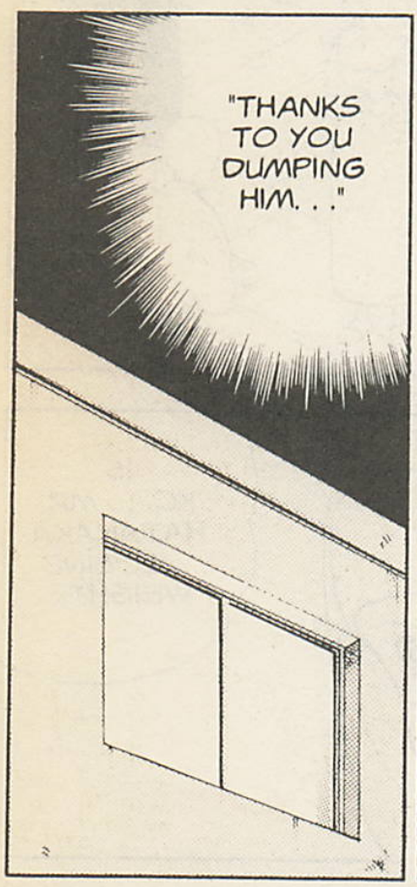

GOOD BOY, KOSAKU.
YOU DON'T NEED A GIRL RIGHT NOW.


LOOK AT ME!
MY WIFE LEFT ME BECAUSE OF BOXING, BUT DO I MISS HER?!
AM I MISERABLE ?!
WHA. . .
SERIOUS-LY?
THAT'S PATHETIC . . .
BZZ BZZ

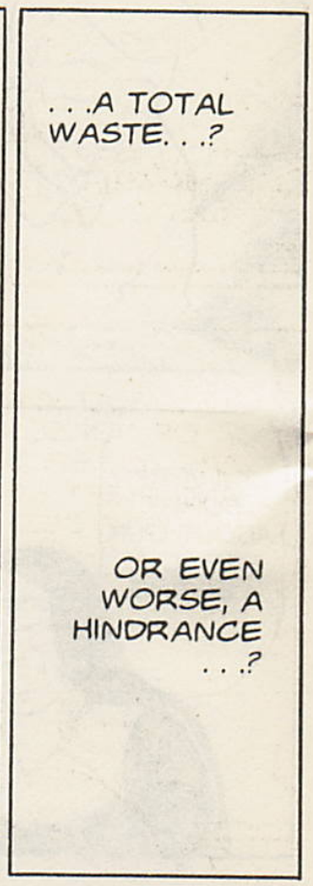

The convent
SISTER ANGELA?
YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
ST. MARY'S CONVENT
OH, COACH...
IS IT... UH...
...ABOUT KOSAKU...?
YEAH.
ABOUT KOSAKU.
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU.
THANK...?

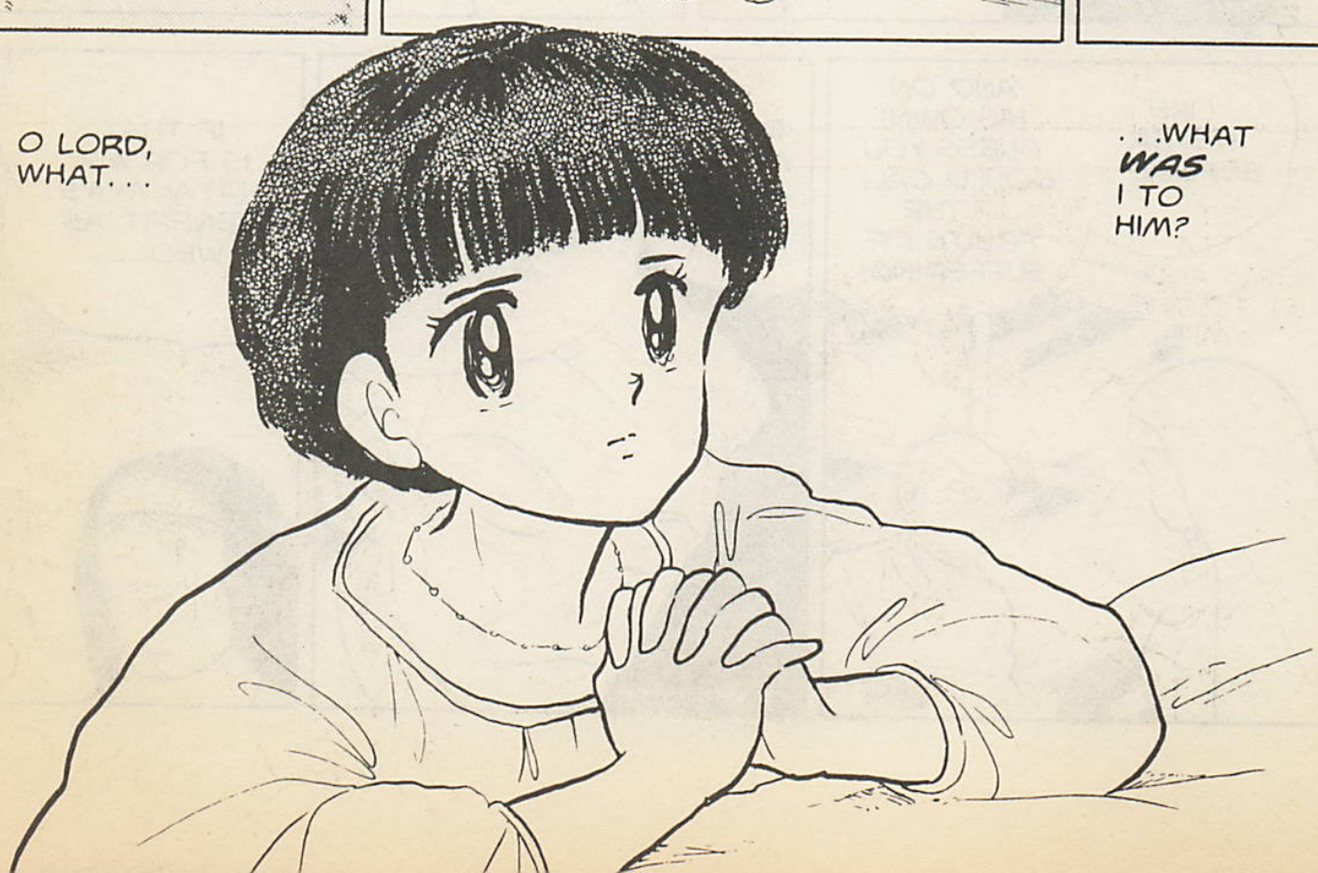

THANKS TO YOU DUMPING HIM. . .
. . .HE'S FINALLY DECIDED TO PUT ALL HIS ENERGY INTO BOXING, AND ONLY BOXING.
. . .
MY, WHAT WELCOME NEWS!
MOTHER ABBESS...
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT OUR PREVIOUS MEETING.
ME TOO.
UM. . .
IS KO. . . MR. HATANAKA . . .LOSING WEIGHT?
LIKE NEVER BEFORE--
AND ON HIS OWN! GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THE FRUITS OF SUFFERING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
I PROMISE NEVER TO LET HIM GET NEAR YOU, SISTER, NO MATTER WHAT.
IF THAT IS FOR MR. HATANAKA'S BENEFIT AS WELL. . .

. . .THEN IT'S A MATTER OF "TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!"
HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA
"ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!"

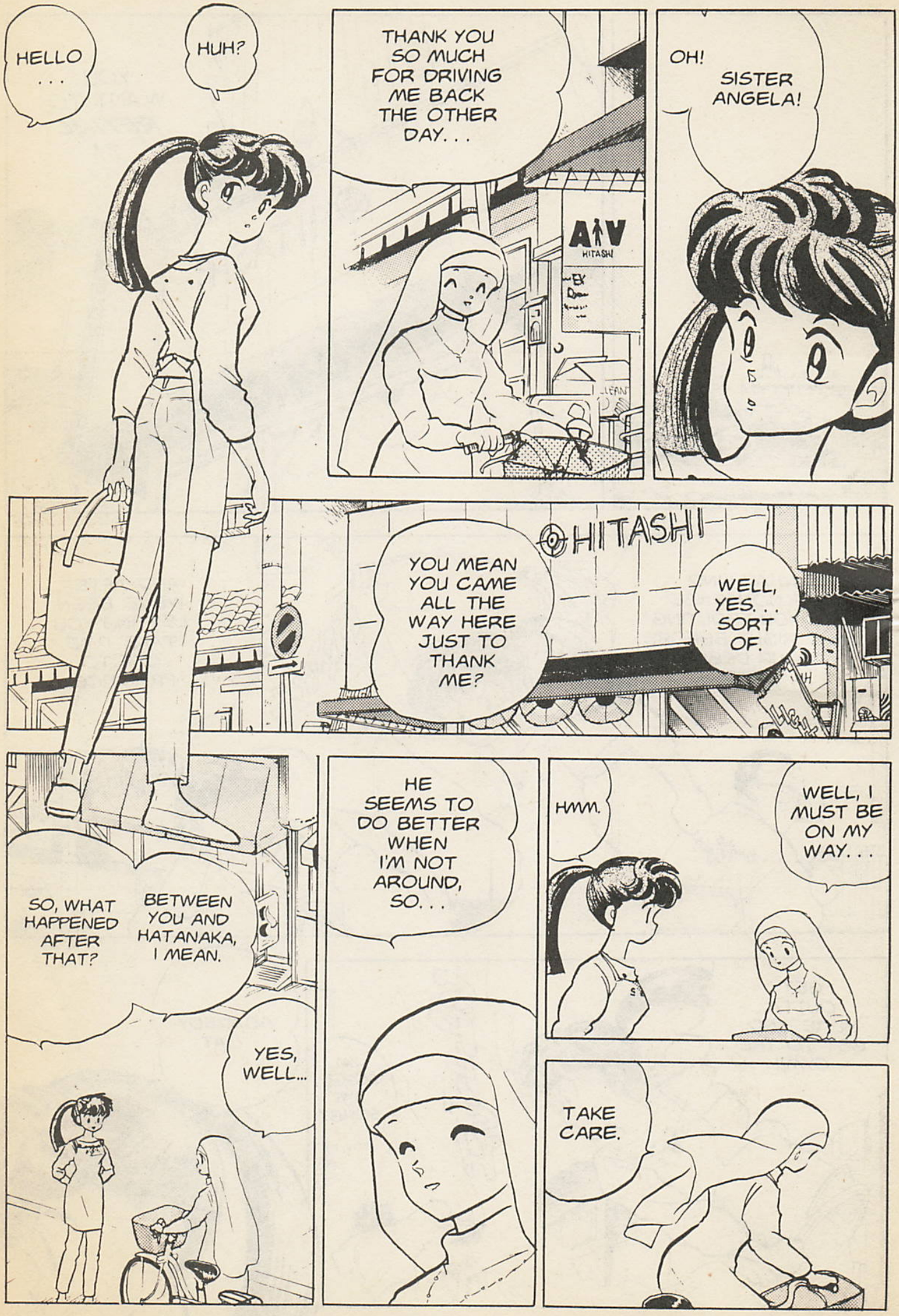

"THANKS TO YOU DUMPING HIM. . ."

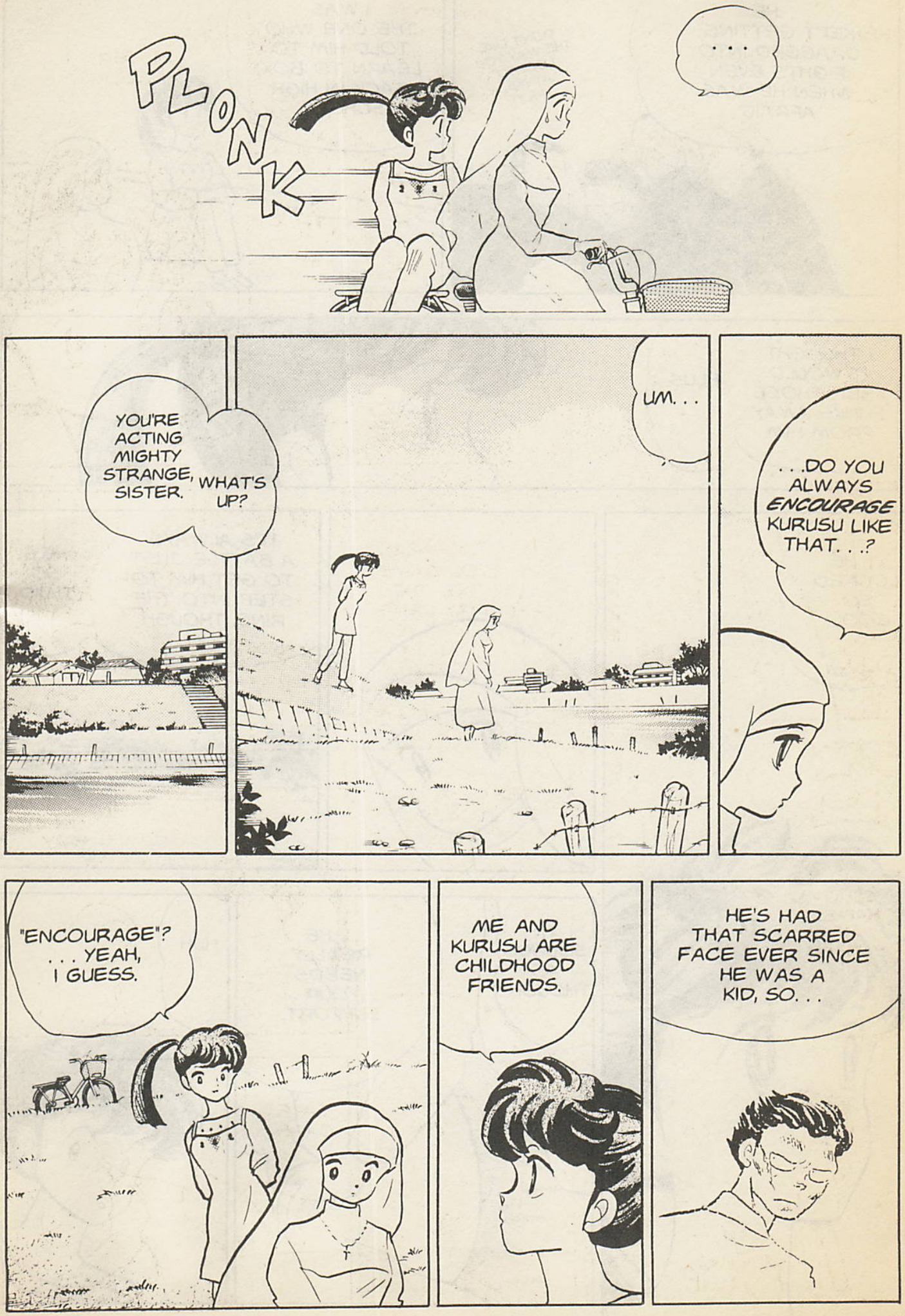
SO. . . WAS EVERY-THING I DID FOR HIM. . .

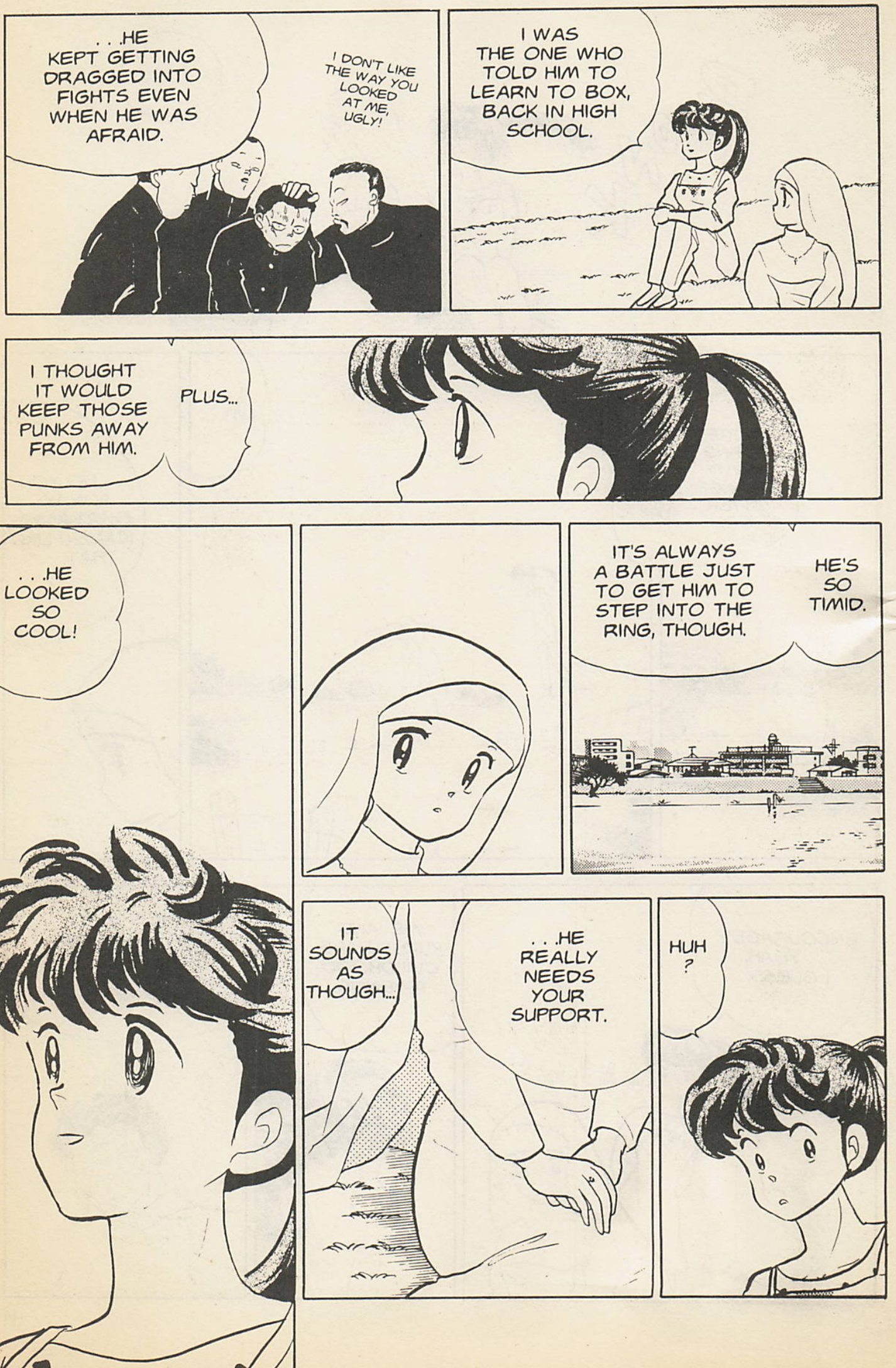

. . .A TOTAL WASTE. . .?
OR EVEN WORSE, A HINDRANCE . . .?

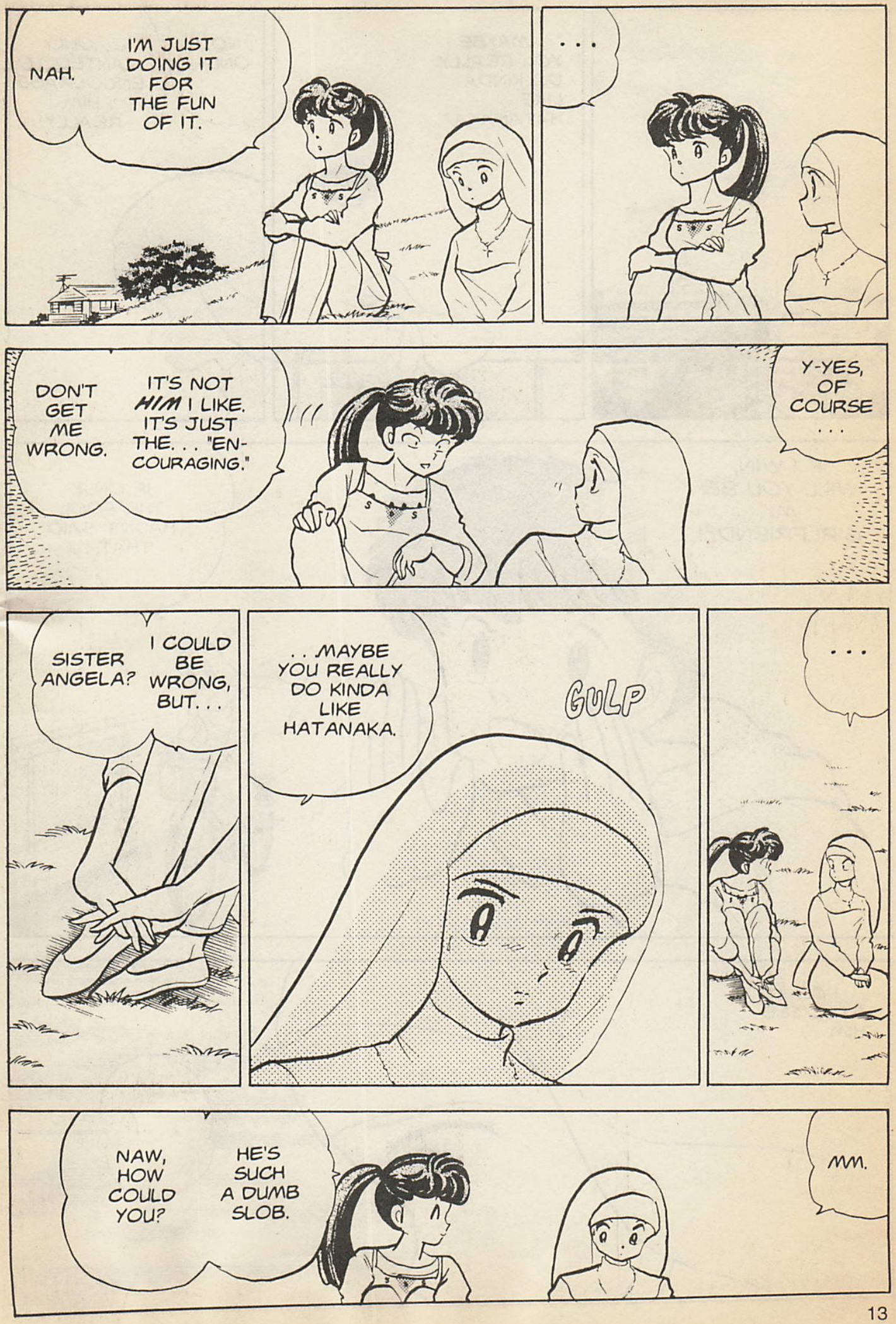

O LORD, WHAT. . .
. . .WHAT WAS I TO HIM?

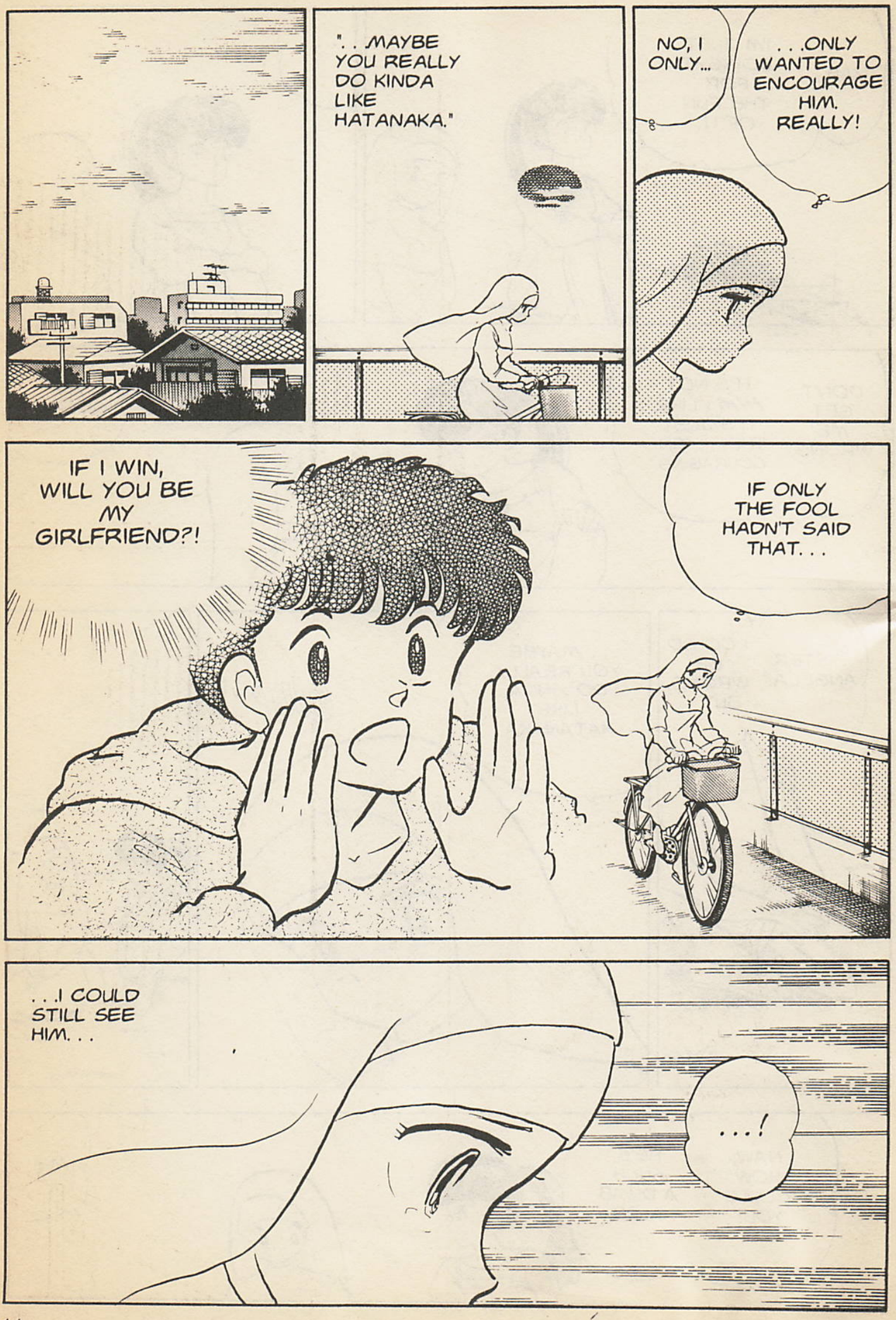
YOU WANT TO RETIRE ?!
HITASHI
BIG SCREEN TV
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING? AND RIGHT BEFORE YOUR DEBUT, TOO!
WHACK
AND AFTER WE'VE BEEN LETTING YOU TAKE TIME OFF TO PRACTICE!
WHACK
Bright Lights ELECTRIC
WASHER ¥10,800
GET OUTTA HERE AND GET TO THE GYM!!
SPLASH
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
SCAREDY-CAT.


HELLO . . .
HUH?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR DRIVING ME BACK THE OTHER DAY. . .
OH! SISTER ANGELA!
HITASHI
YOU MEAN YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO THANK ME?
WELL, YES. . . SORT OF.
SO, WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
BETWEEN YOU AND HATANAKA, I MEAN.
YES, WELL...
HE SEEMS TO DO BETTER WHEN I'M NOT AROUND, SO. . .
HMM.
WELL, I MUST BE ON MY WAY. . .
TAKE CARE.

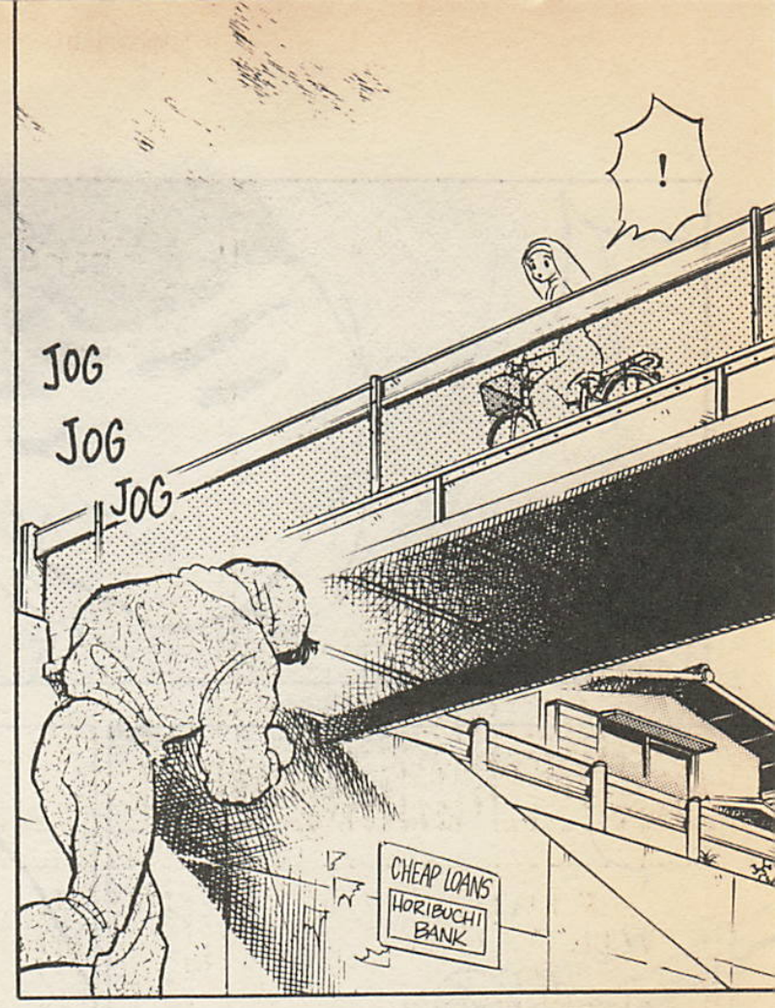

PLONK
. . .
YOU'RE ACTING MIGHTY STRANGE, SISTER.
WHAT'S UP?
UM. . .
. . .DO YOU ALWAYS ENCOURAGE KURUSU LIKE THAT. . .?
"ENCOURAGE"? . . . YEAH, I GUESS.
ME AND KURUSU ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
HE'S HAD THAT SCARRED FACE EVER SINCE HE WAS A KID, SO. . .

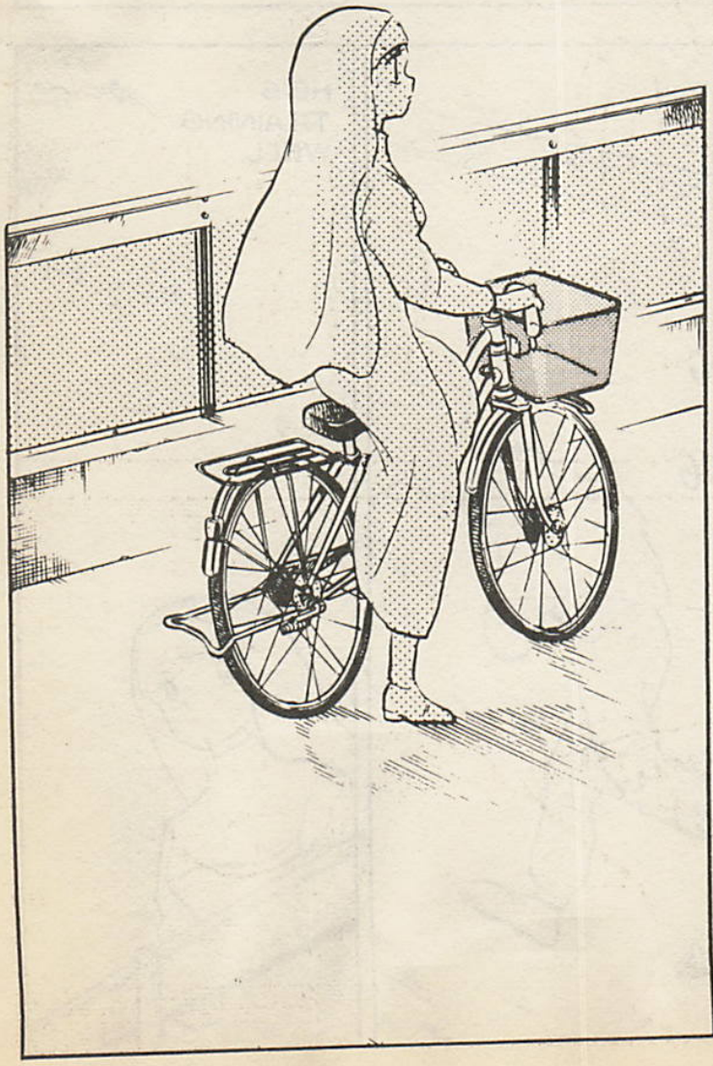

. . .HE KEPT GETTING DRAGGED INTO FIGHTS EVEN WHEN HE WAS AFRAID.
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT ME, UGLY!
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM TO LEARN TO BOX, BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD KEEP THOSE PUNKS AWAY FROM HIM.
PLUS...
. . .HE LOOKED SO COOL!
IT'S ALWAYS A BATTLE JUST TO GET HIM TO STEP INTO THE RING, THOUGH.
HE'S SO TIMID.
IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH...
. . .HE REALLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.
HUH ?

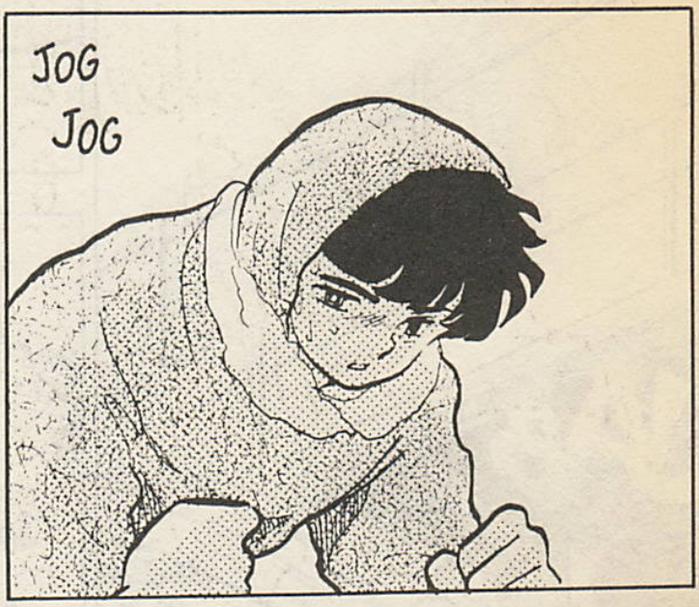

NAH.
I'M JUST DOING IT FOR THE FUN OF IT.
. . .
DON'T GET ME WRONG.
IT'S NOT *HIM* I LIKE. IT'S JUST THE. . . "ENCOURAGING."
Y-YES, OF COURSE . . .
SISTER ANGELA?
I COULD BE WRONG, BUT. . .
. . MAYBE YOU REALLY DO KINDA LIKE HATANAKA.
GULP
. . .
NAW, HOW COULD YOU?
HE'S SUCH A DUMB SLOB.
MM.

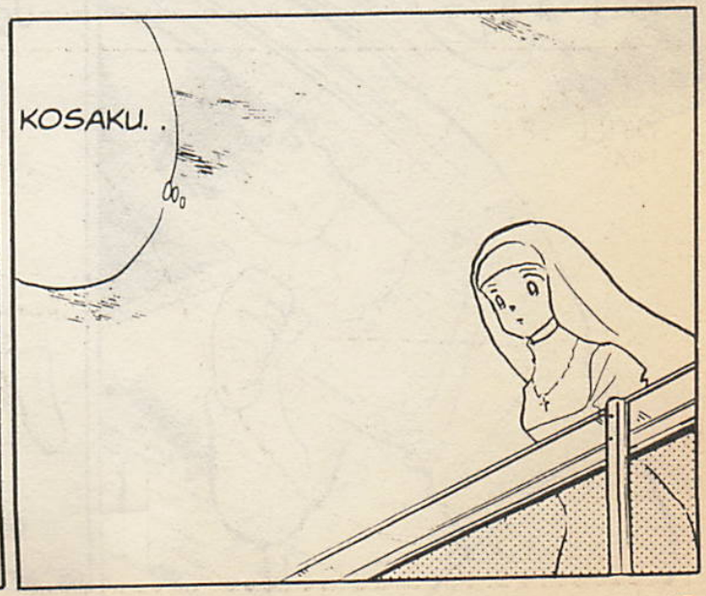

". . MAYBE YOU REALLY DO KINDA LIKE HATANAKA."
NO, I ONLY...
. . .ONLY WANTED TO ENCOURAGE HIM. REALLY!
IF I WIN, WILL YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND?!
IF ONLY THE FOOL HADN'T SAID THAT. . .
. . .I COULD STILL SEE HIM. . .
. . .!

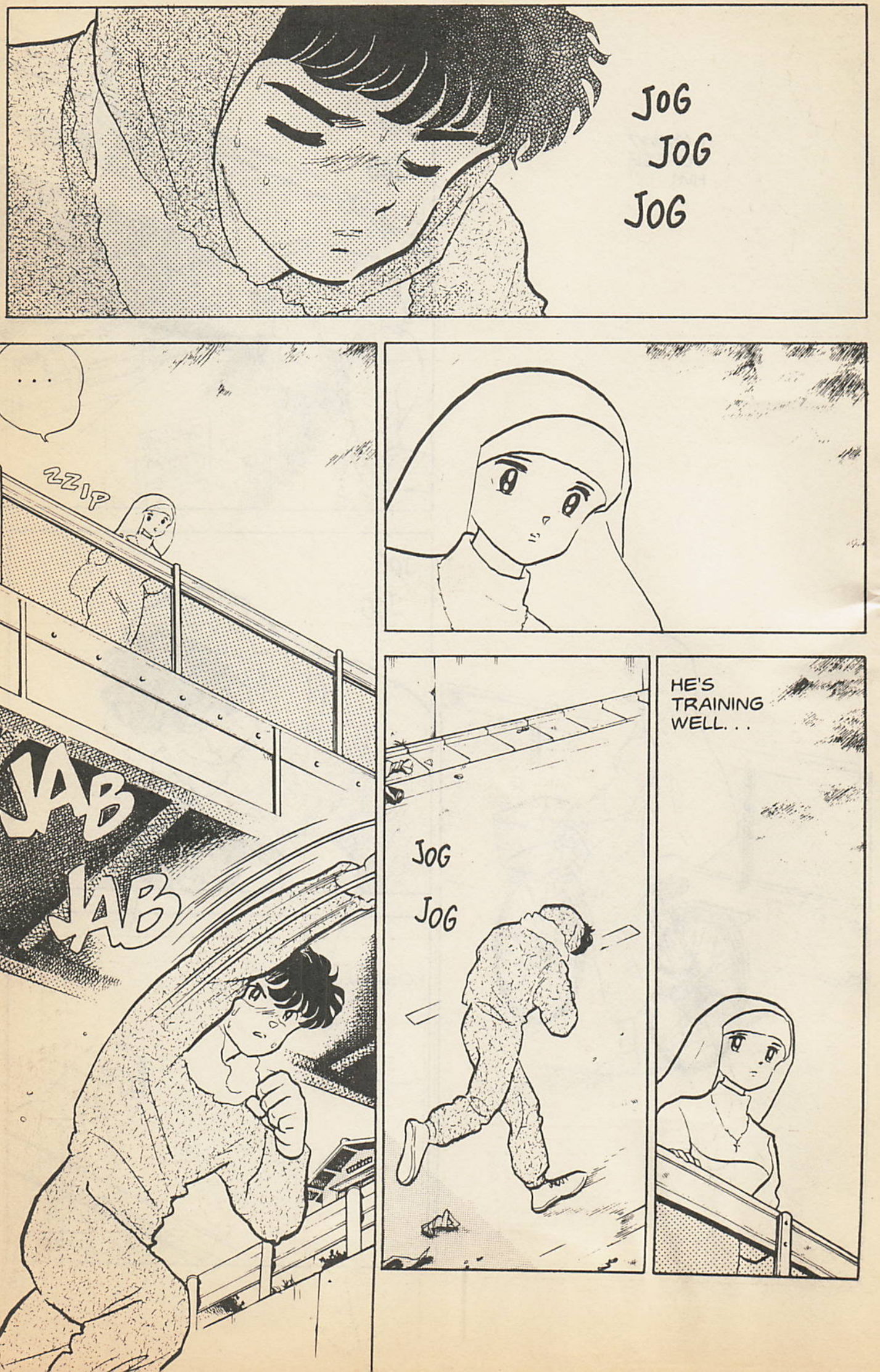
I *WANT* TO SEE HIM. . .?!

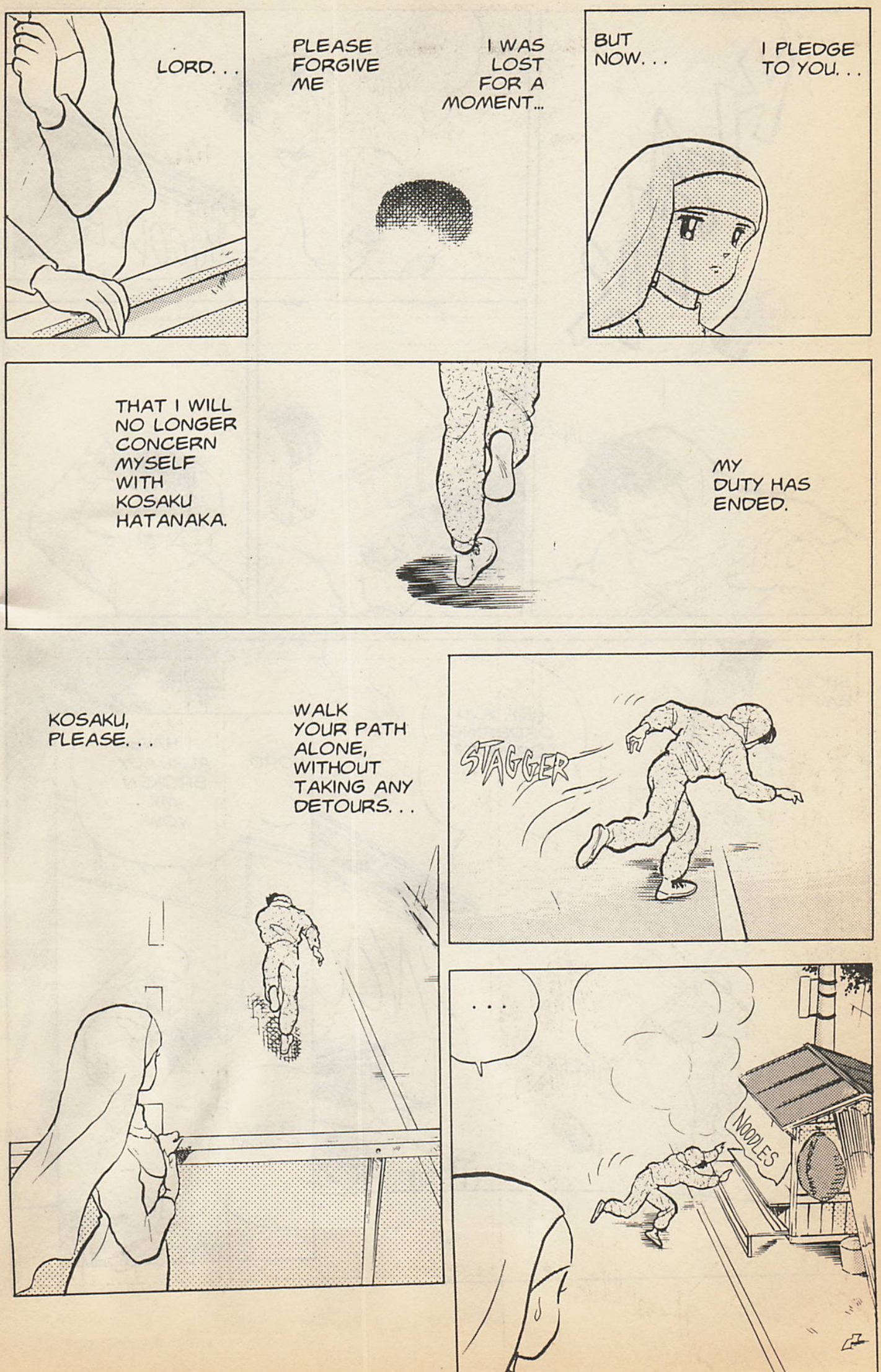




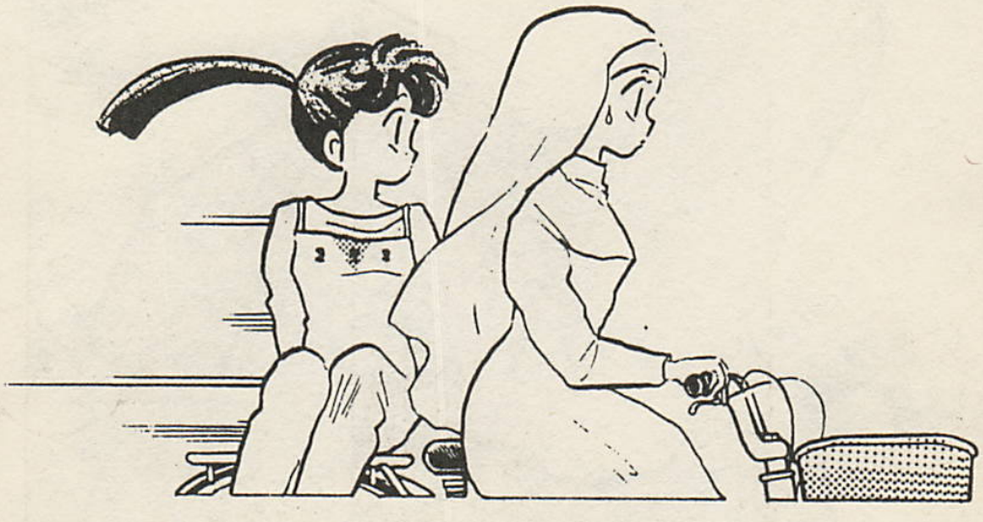




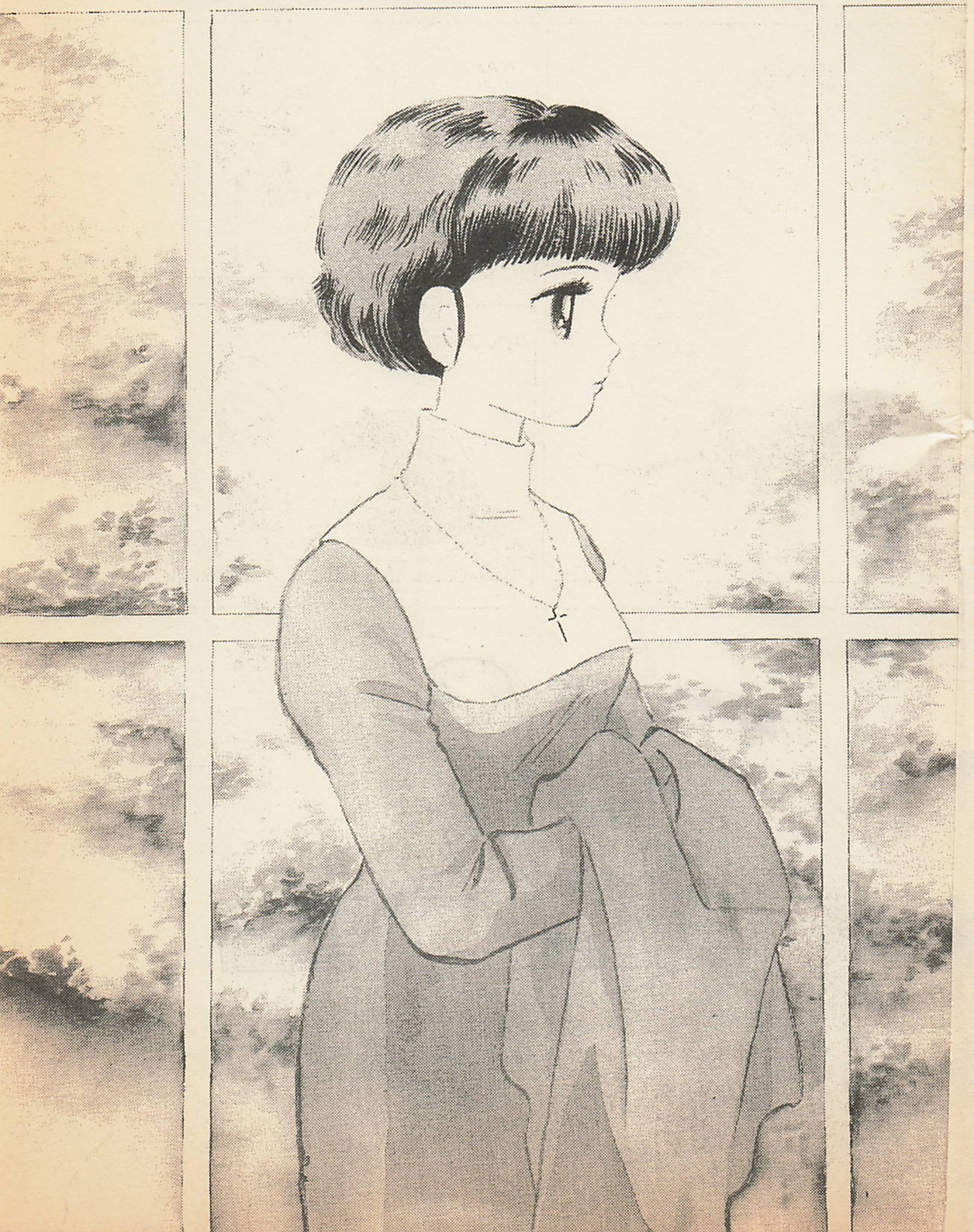

JOG
JOG
JOG
...
ZZIP
JAB
JAB
JOG
JOG
HE'S TRAINING WELL. . .

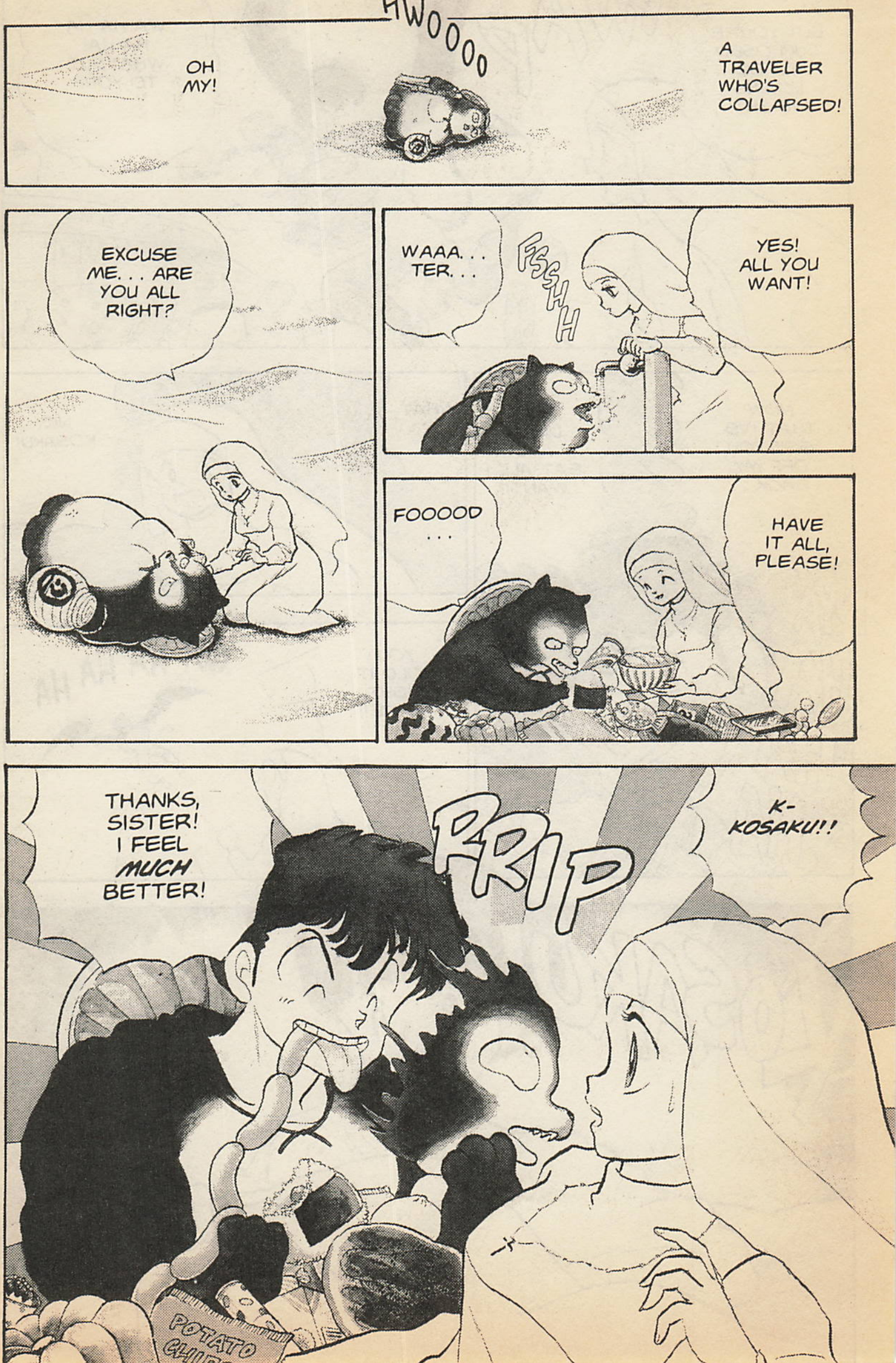

LORD. . .
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
I WAS LOST FOR A MOMENT...
BUT NOW. . .
I PLEDGE TO YOU. . .
THAT I WILL NO LONGER CONCERN MYSELF WITH KOSAKU HATANAKA.
MY DUTY HAS ENDED.
KOSAKU, PLEASE. . .
WALK YOUR PATH ALONE, WITHOUT TAKING ANY DETOURS. . .
STAGGER
. . .
NOODLES

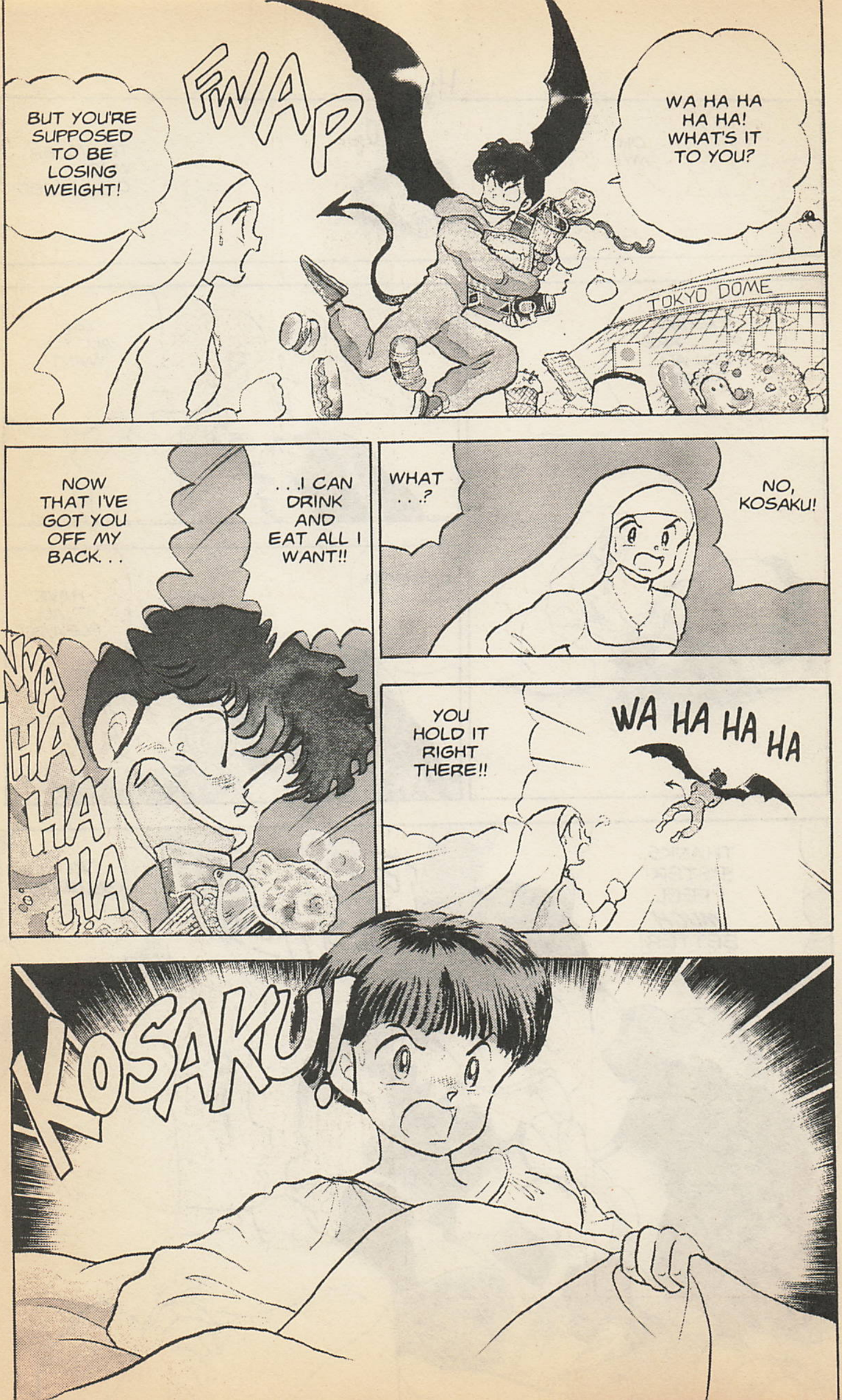
KLANK
UH-?
WHIP WHIP
NOODLE
SHOOT. EMPTY.
HEY, YOU ORDERING OR NOT?
TONK
LORD. I HAVE ALREADY BROKEN MY VOW.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME. . .



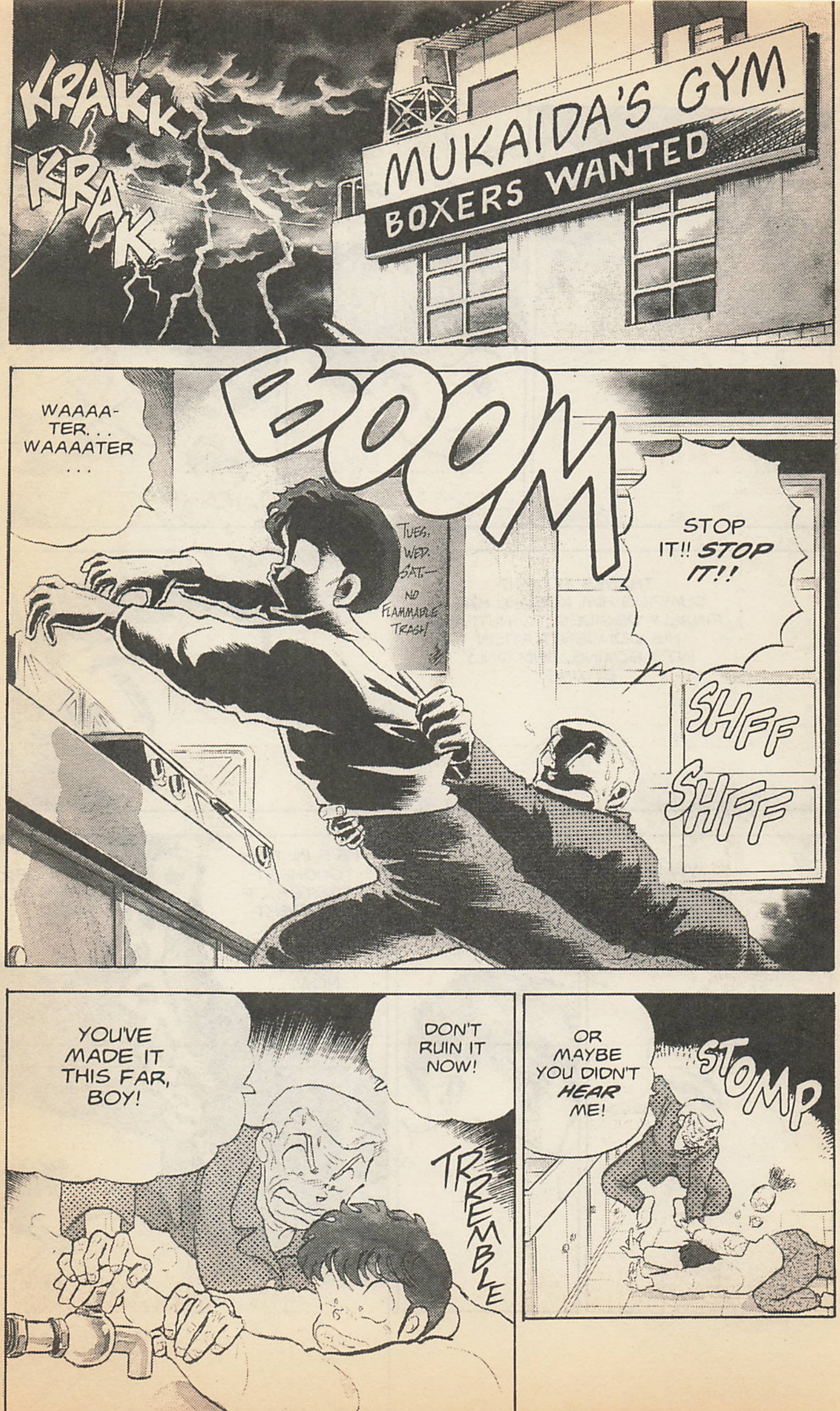
THE LAMB WHO CROSSED HIMSELF
PART FOUR



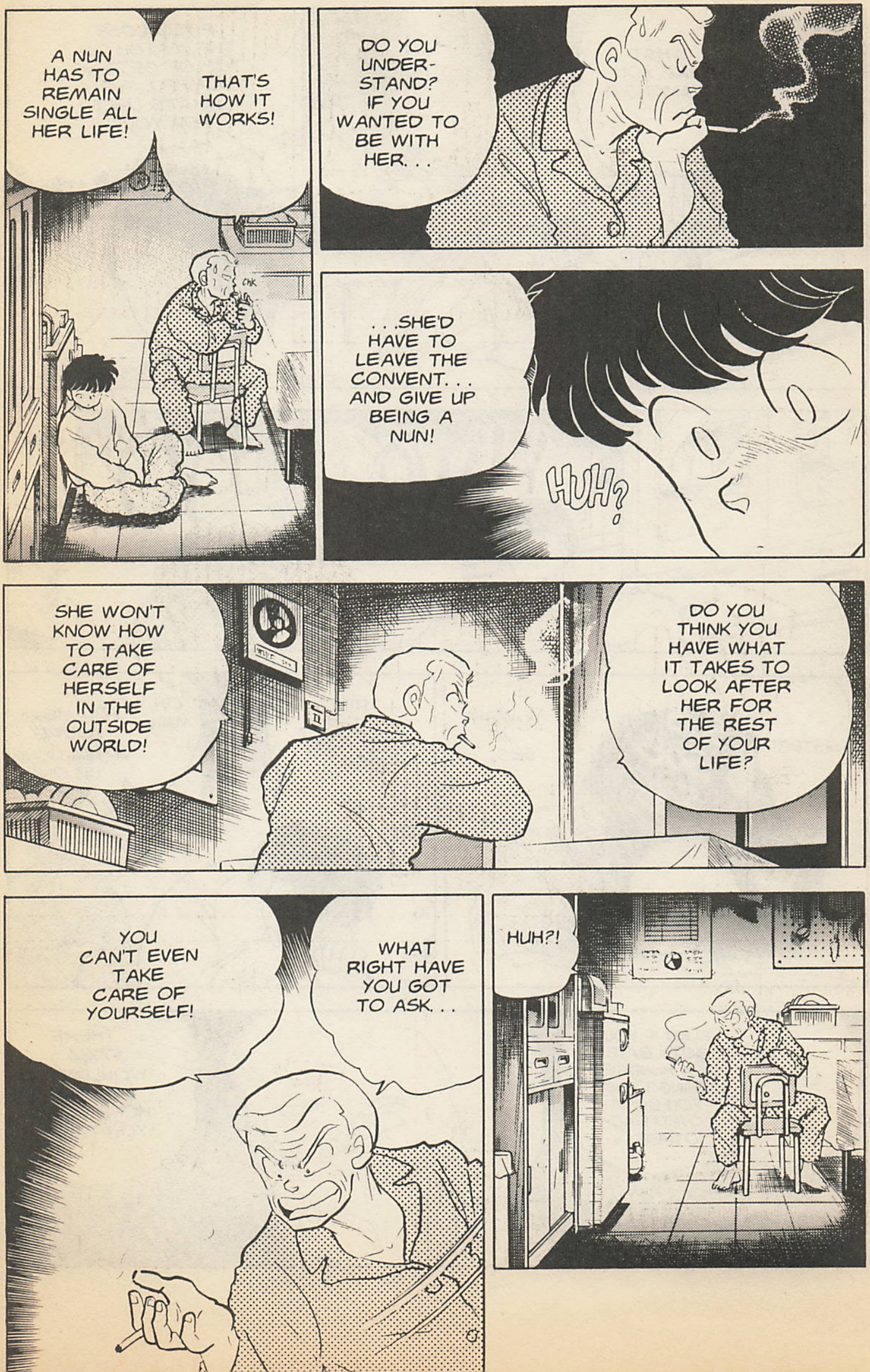

HWOOOO
OH MY!
A TRAVELER WHO'S COLLAPSED!
EXCUSE ME... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAAA... TER...
FSSHH
YES! ALL YOU WANT!
FOOOOD...
HAVE IT ALL, PLEASE!
THANKS, SISTER! I FEEL MUCH BETTER!
PRIP
K-KOSAKU!!
POTATO

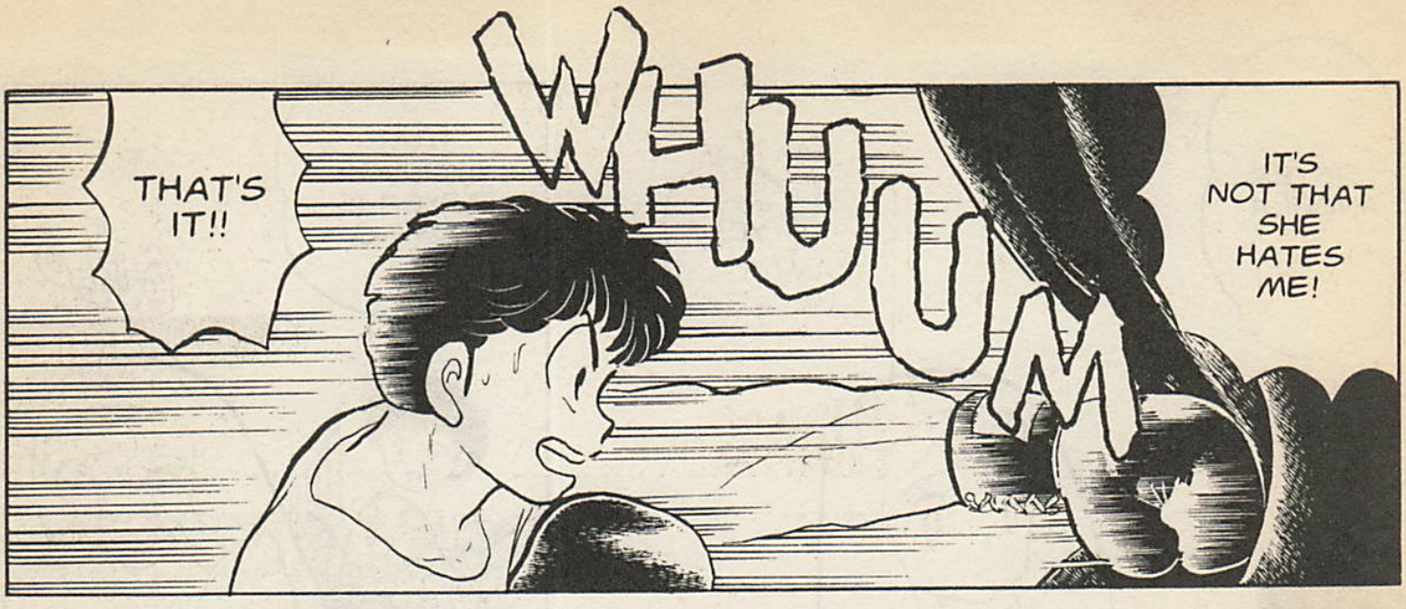

BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOSING WEIGHT!
FWAP
WA HA HA HA HA! WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
TOKYO DOME
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU OFF MY BACK. . .
. . .I CAN DRINK AND EAT ALL I WANT!!
NYA HA HA HA
WHAT . . .?
NO, KOSAKU!
YOU HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
WA HA HA HA
KOSAKU!

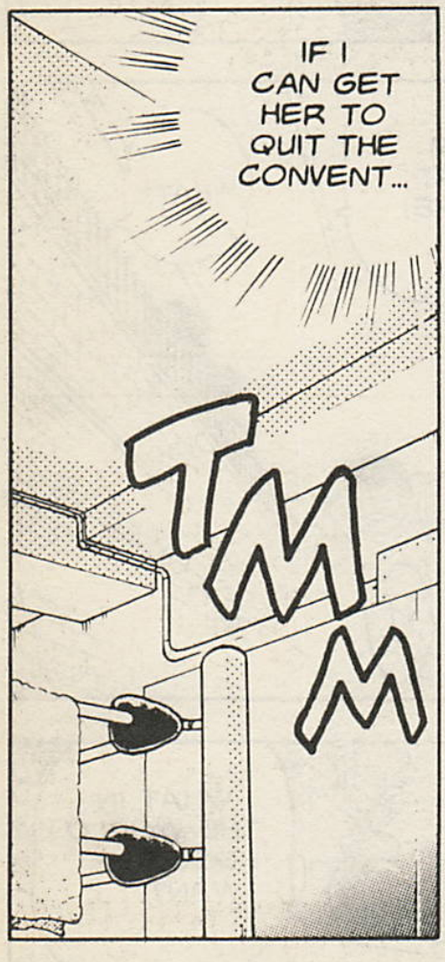
HWOOO
JUST...
...A DREAM ... BUT STILL...
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU OFF MY BACK...
GRRR
THANKS TO YOU DUMPING HIM, KOSAKU HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO PUT ALL HIS CONCENTRATION INTO BOXING, AND ONLY BOXING.
WELL, IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS ANY MORE...
HE'S IN THE TOUGHEST STRETCH OF HIS WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM RIGHT NOW...
BRRRRRRRR
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT...

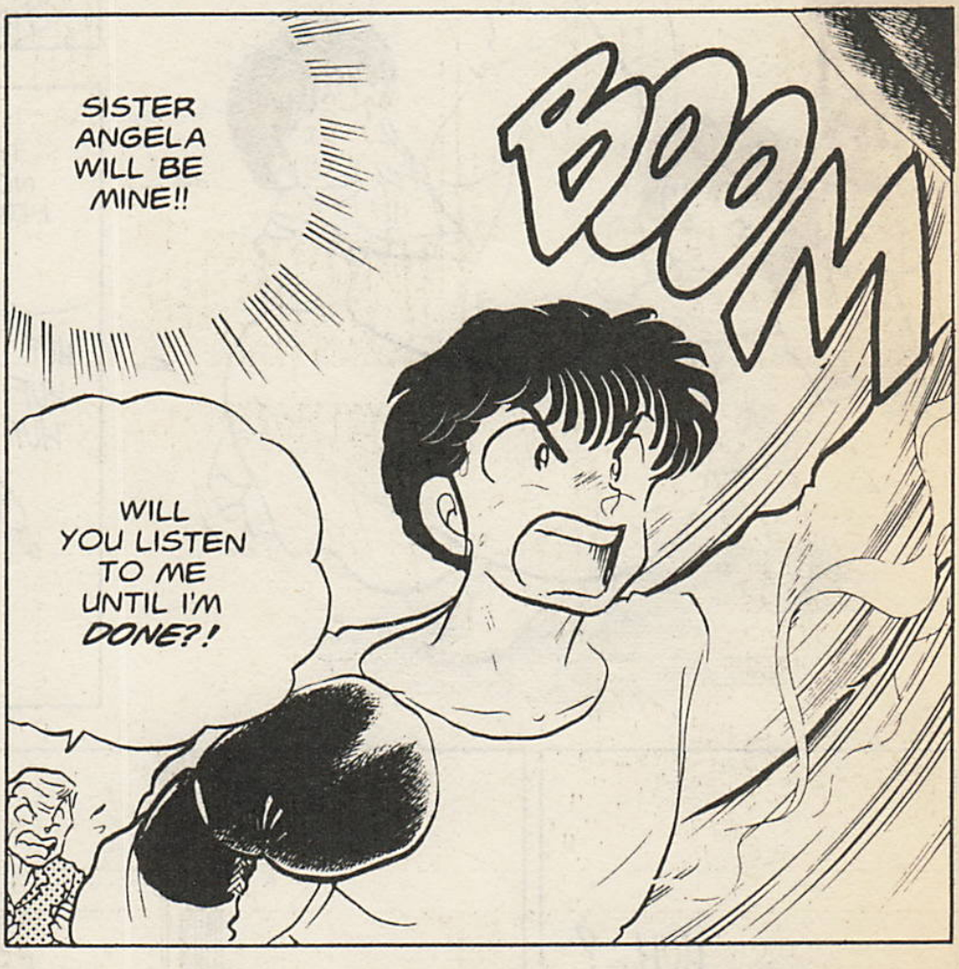

KRAKK
KRAK
MUKAIDA'S GYM
BOXERS WANTED
WAAAA-
TER. . .
WAAAATER
. . .
BOOM
TUES. WED. SAT.—
NO FLAMMABLE TRASH!
STOP IT!! STOP IT!!
SHFF
SHFF
YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, BOY!
DON'T RUIN IT NOW!
TREMBLE
OR MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME!
STOMP

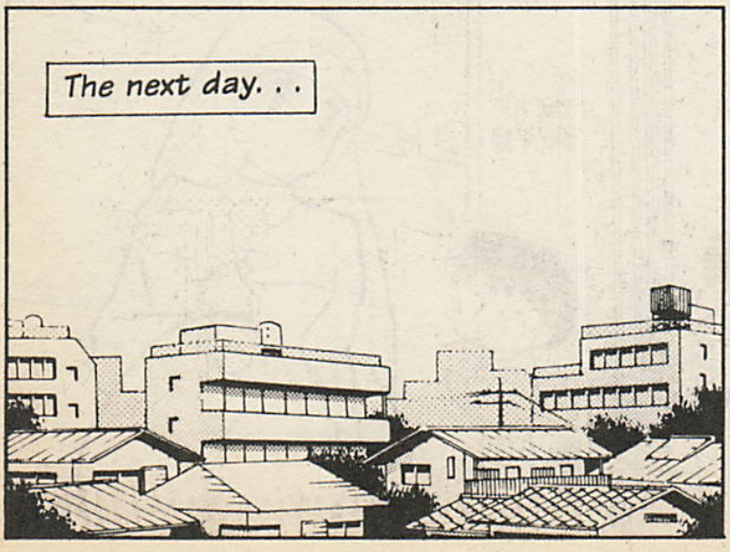
IDIOT!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
WHAM
IF YOU LOSE THE MATCH ON TOP OF GETTING DUMPED, THEN WHAT'S LEFT FOR YOU?!
GULP
HWO
WHA . . .
SISTER!
SOB SOB SOB
W-WAIT A SEC. . .
I TRIED SO HARD TO FORGET HER!
SNIF SNIF
OH, MAN.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ON HER?
LOOK.
EVEN IF YOU BOTH GAVE UP A HUNDRED THINGS AND YOU BOTH LOVED EACH OTHER. . .
. . .THERE STILL WOULDN'T BE ANY HOPE FOR YOU TWO!

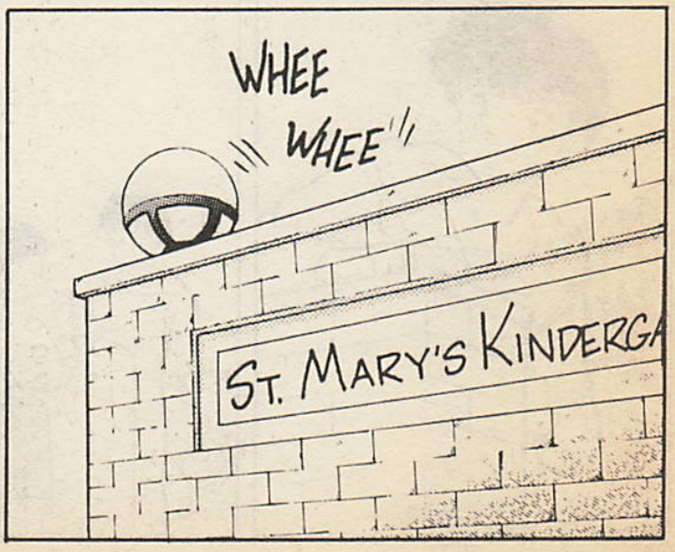

A NUN HAS TO REMAIN SINGLE ALL HER LIFE!
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND? IF YOU WANTED TO BE WITH HER. . .
. . .SHE'D HAVE TO LEAVE THE CONVENT. . . AND GIVE UP BEING A NUN!
HUH?
SHE WON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LOOK AFTER HER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU GOT TO ASK. . .
HUH?!

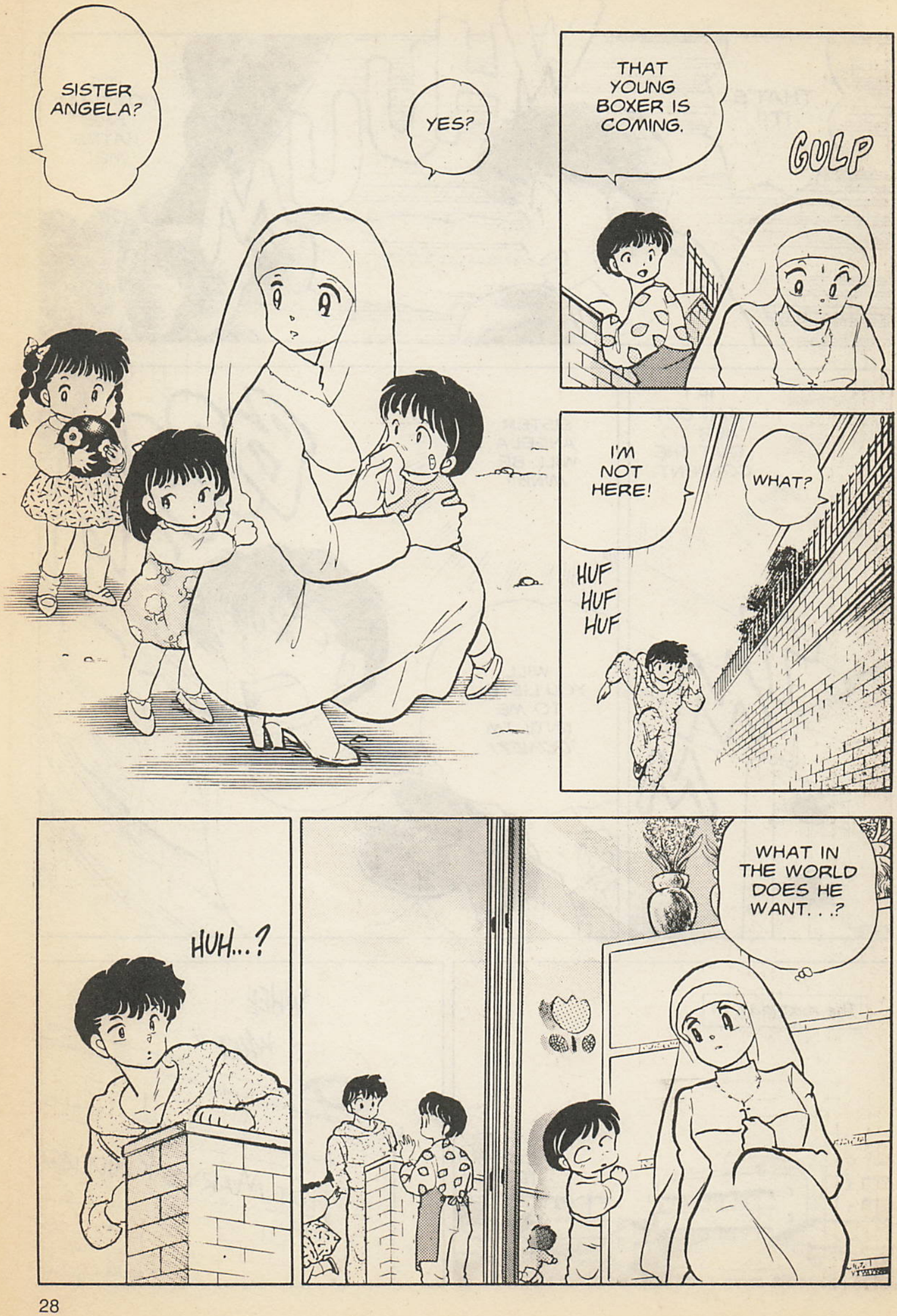

WHUUM
THAT'S IT!!
IT'S NOT THAT SHE HATES ME!

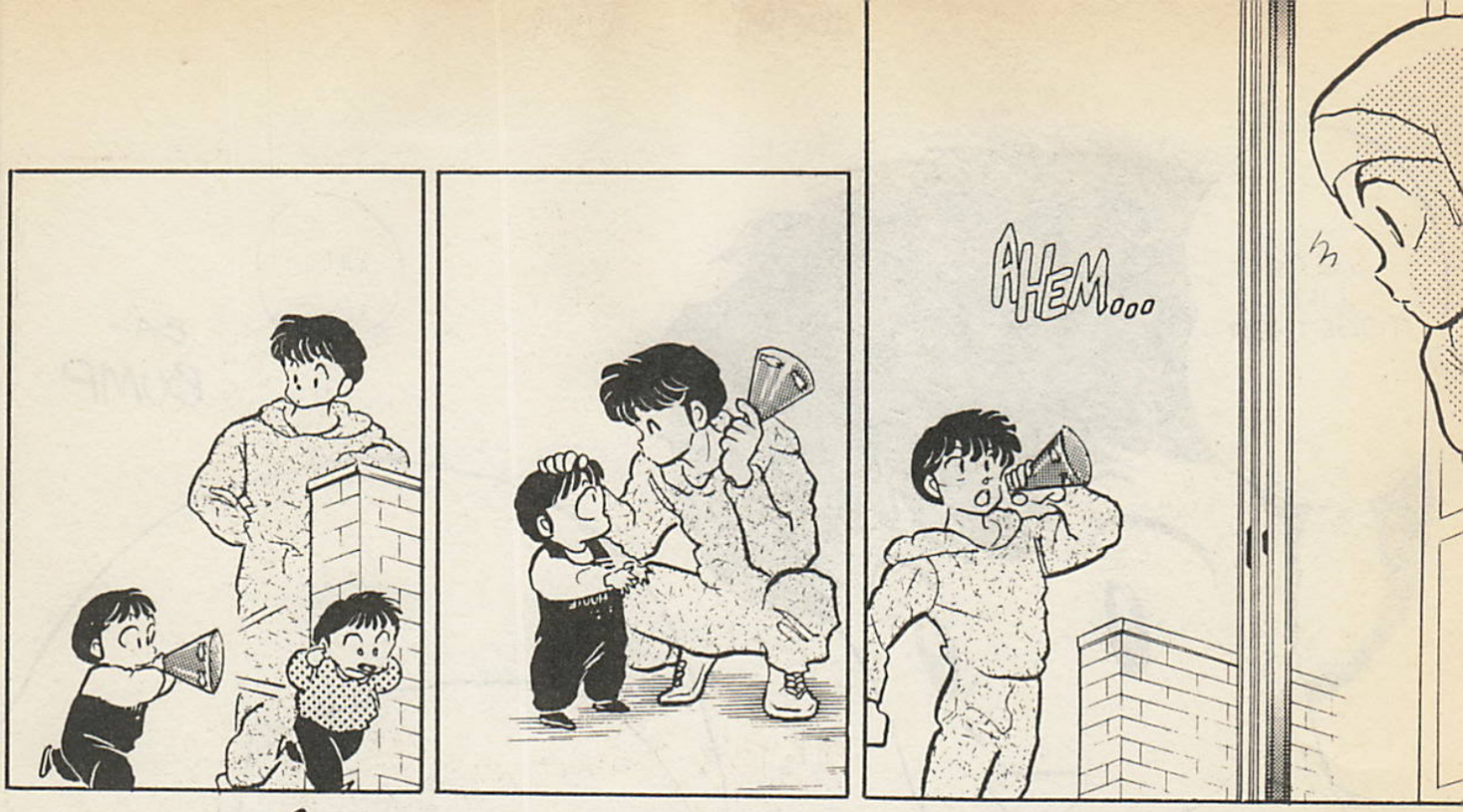

IF I CAN GET HER TO QUIT THE CONVENT...
TMMM

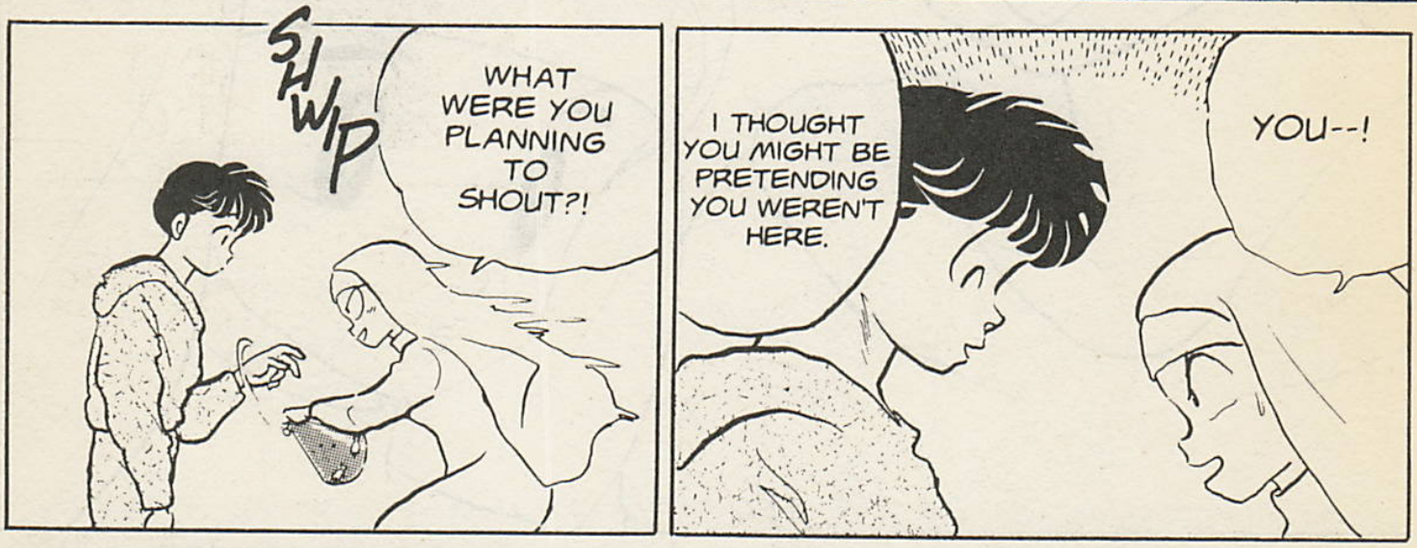

SISTER ANGELA WILL BE MINE!!
BOOM
WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME UNTIL I'M DONE?!

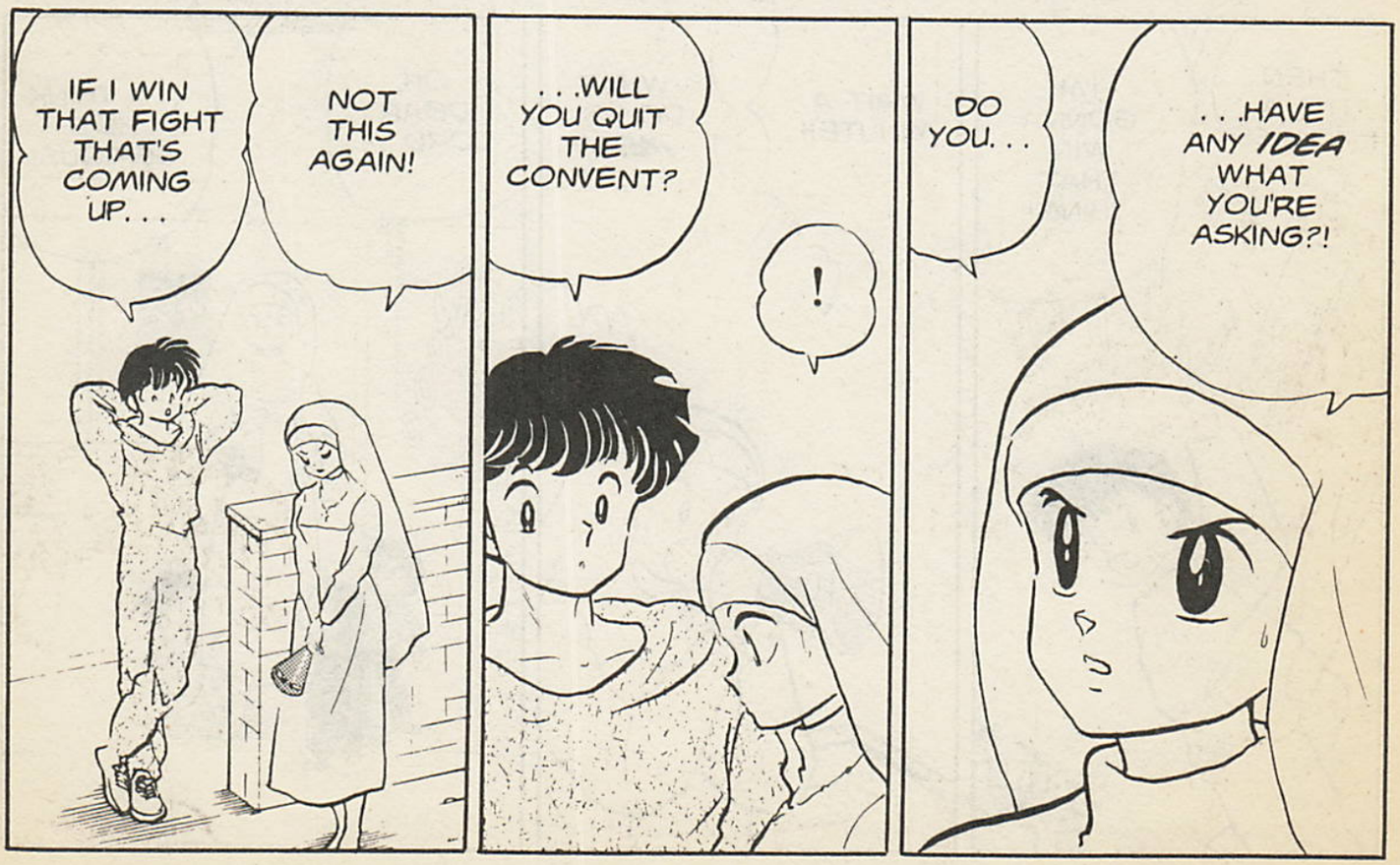

The next day. . .

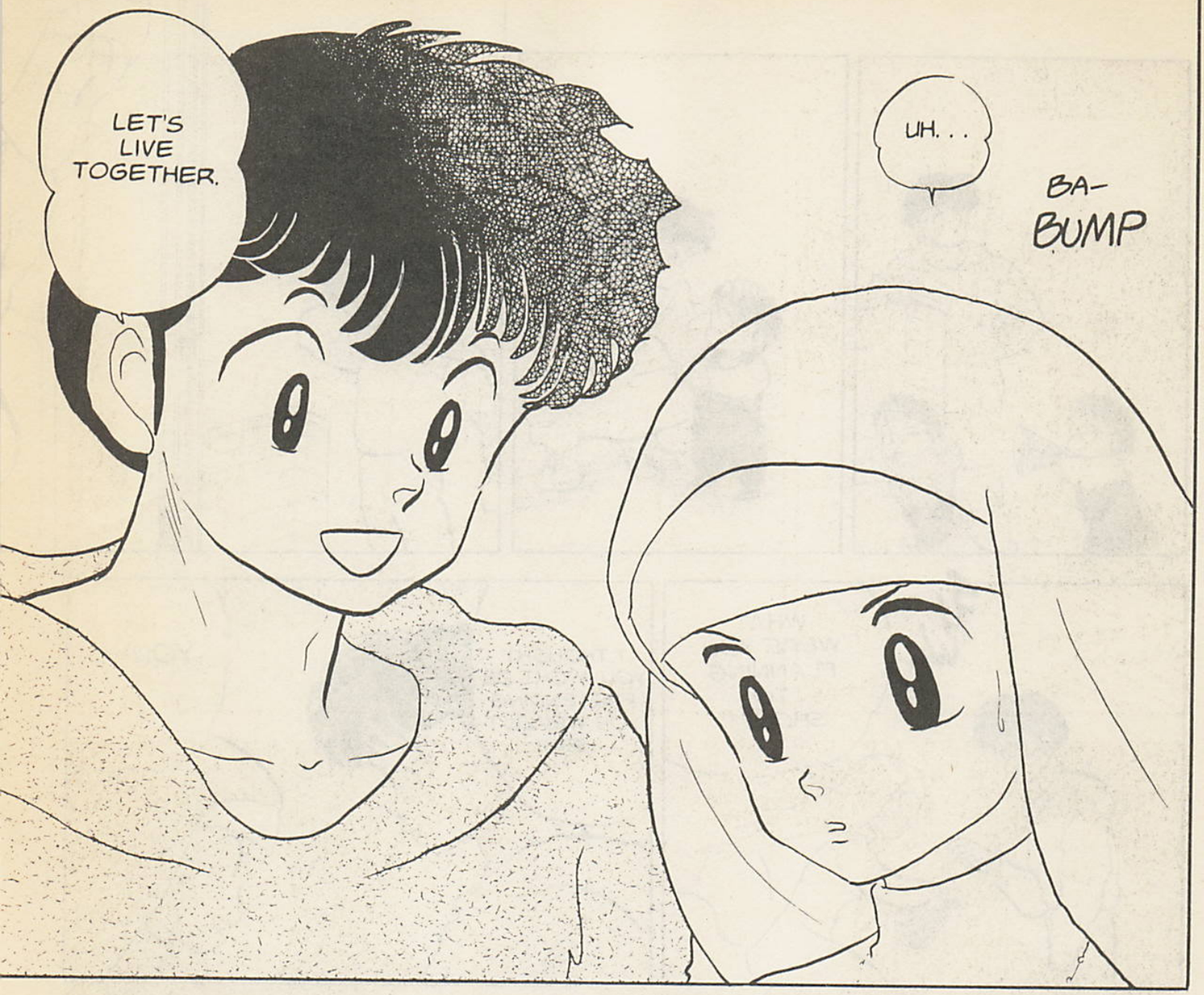

WHEE
WHEE
ST. MARY'S KINDERGA


SISTER ANGELA?
YES?
THAT YOUNG BOXER IS COMING.
GULP
I'M NOT HERE!
WHAT?
HUF HUF HUF
HUH...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES HE WANT. . .?


AHEM...

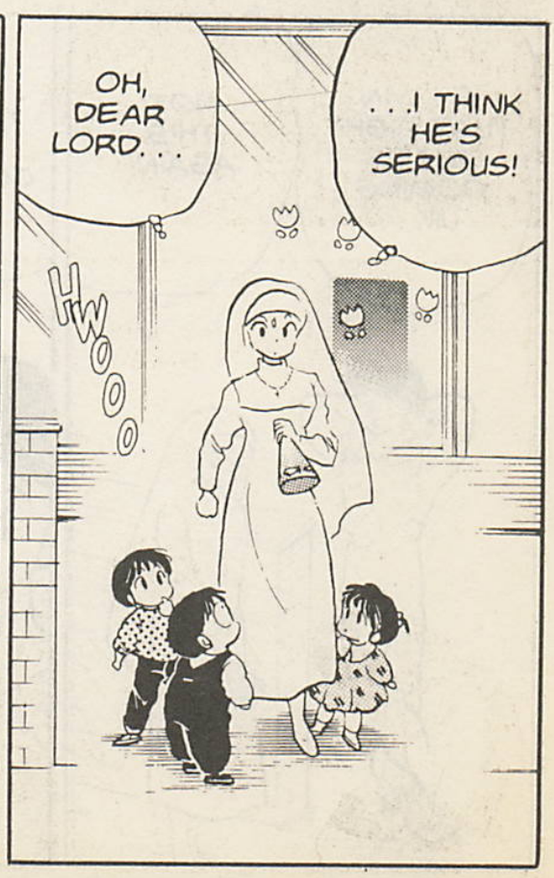

SHWIP
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO SHOUT?!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE PRETENDING YOU WEREN'T HERE.
YOU--!

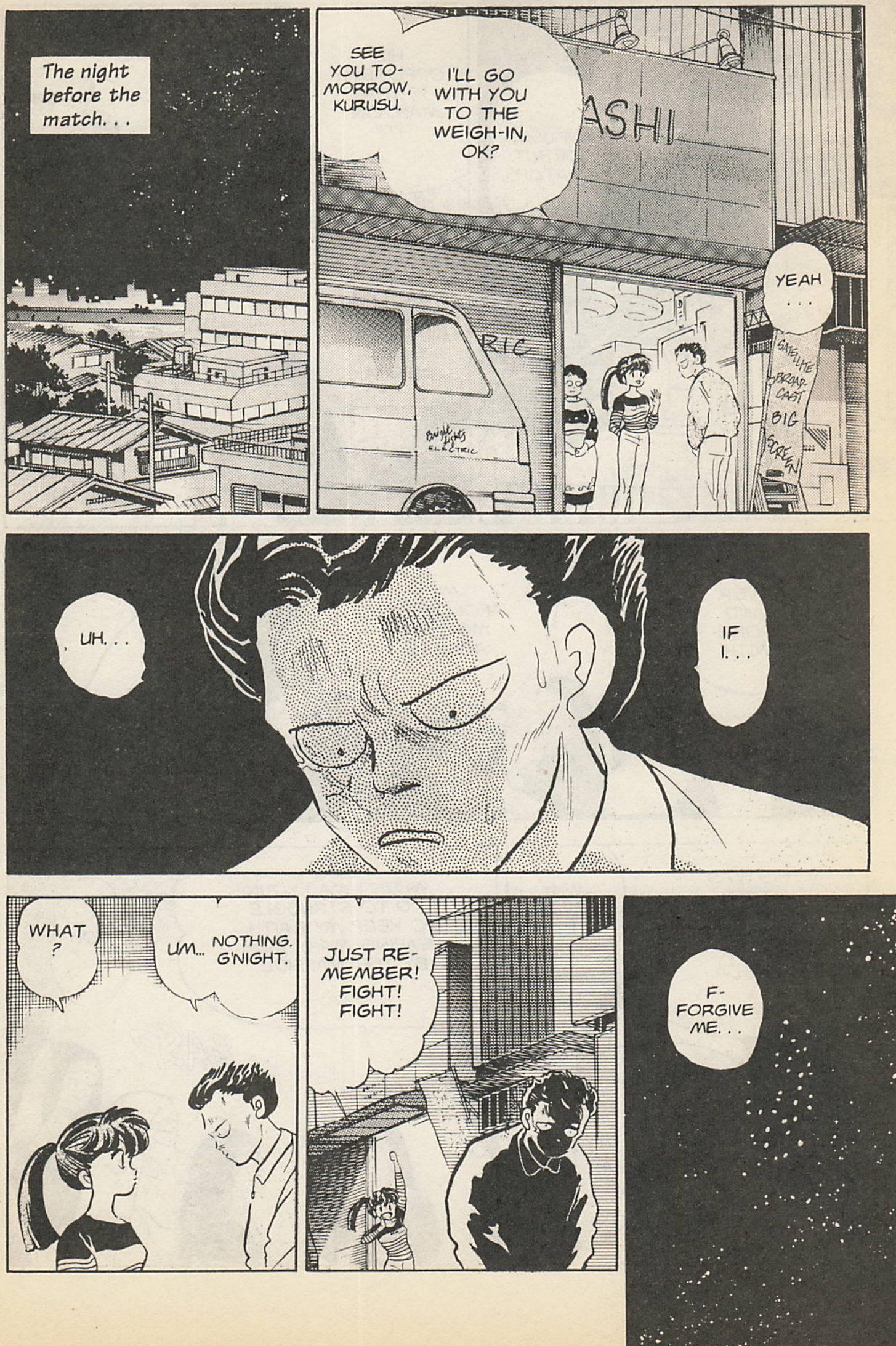

IF I WIN THAT FIGHT THAT'S COMING UP...
NOT THIS AGAIN!
...WILL YOU QUIT THE CONVENT?
!
DO YOU...
...HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE ASKING?!

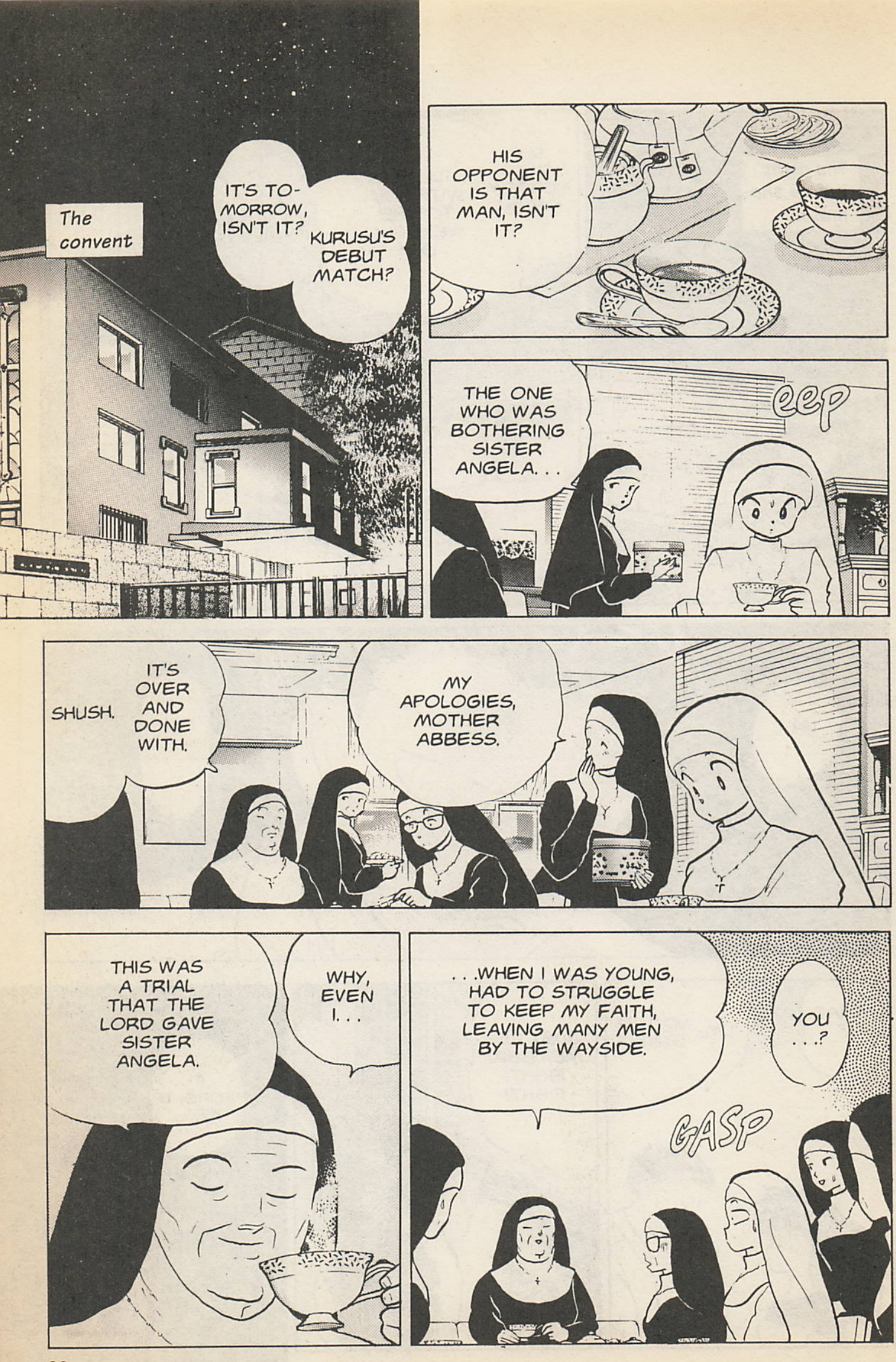

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER.
UH. . .
BA-BUMP

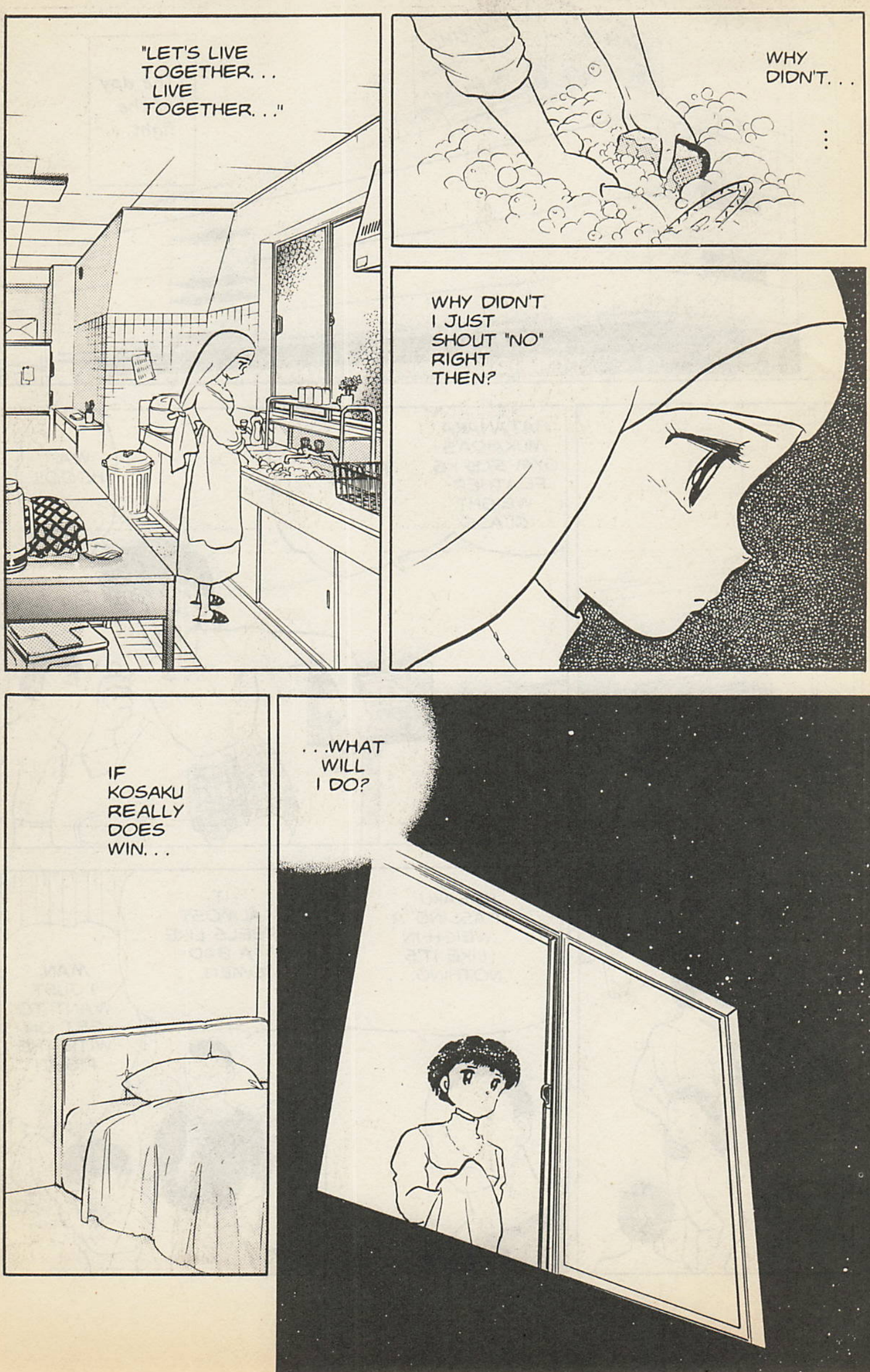
THEN IT'S A PROMISE !
I'M GONNA WIN THAT THING!

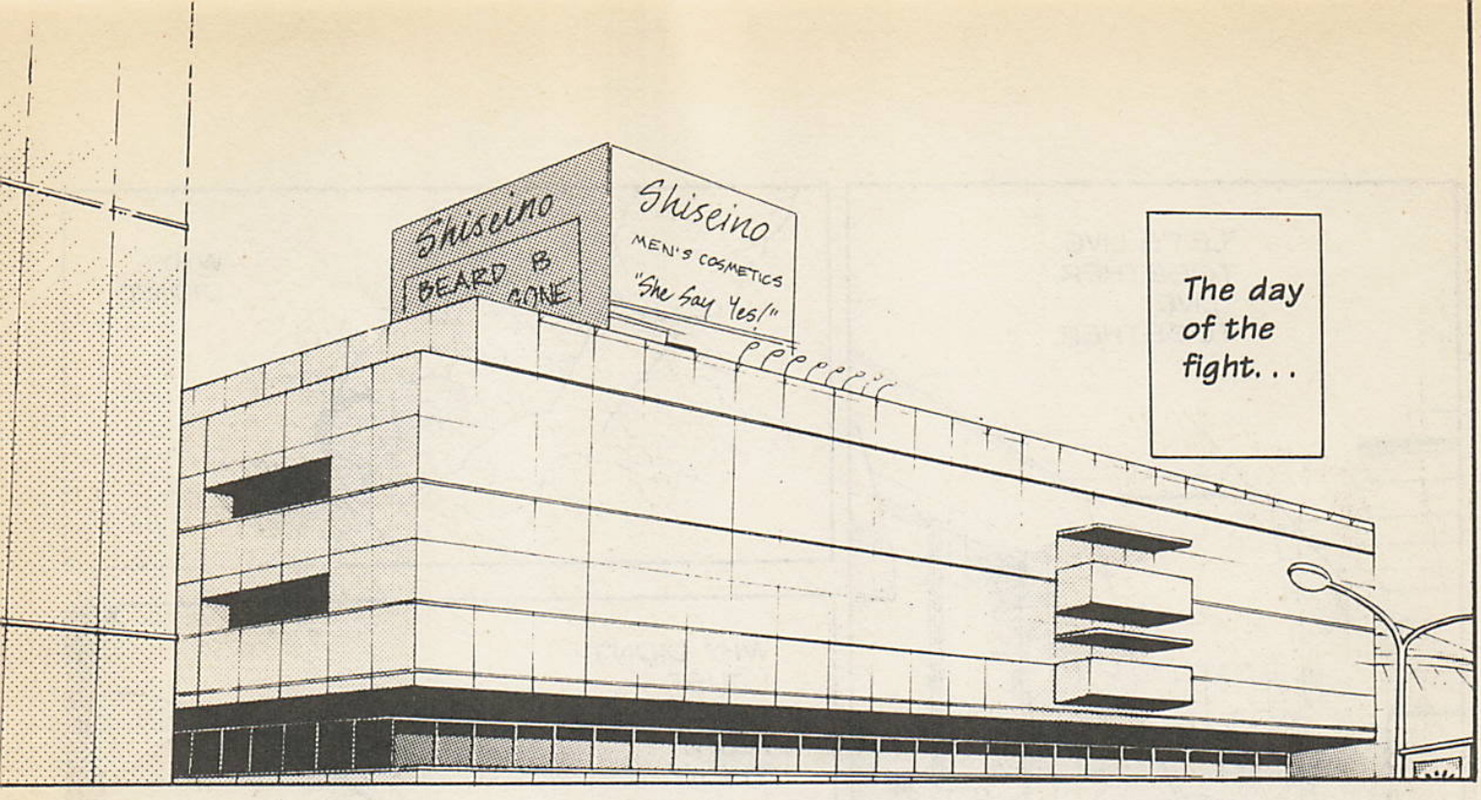
WAIT A MINUTE!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN . . .?!

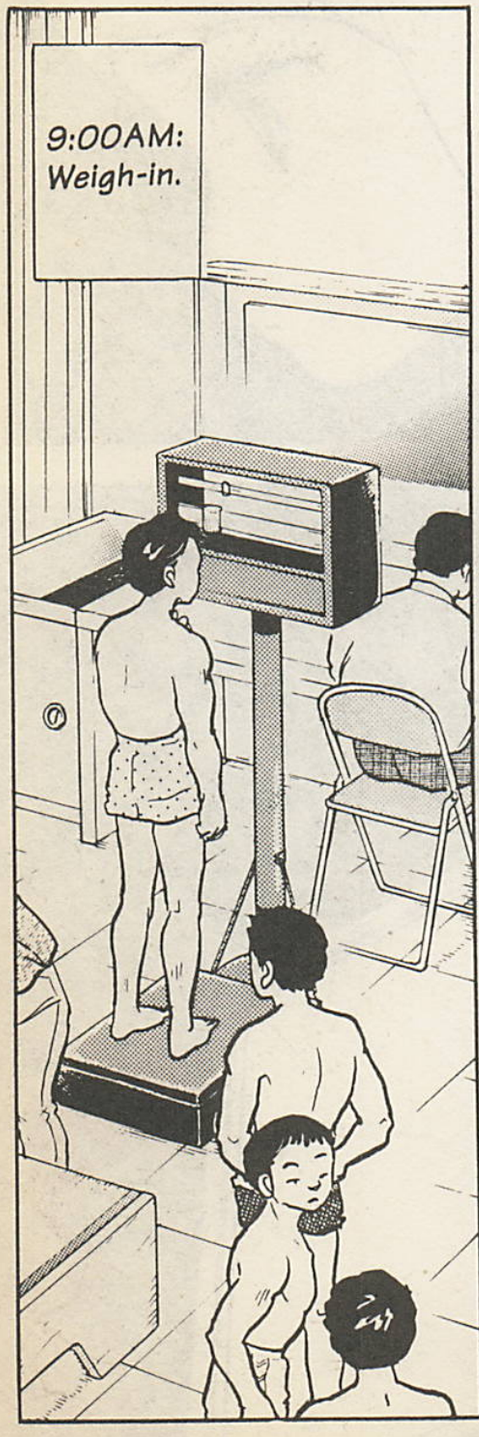

OH, DEAR LORD. . .
. . .I THINK HE'S SERIOUS!
Hwooo

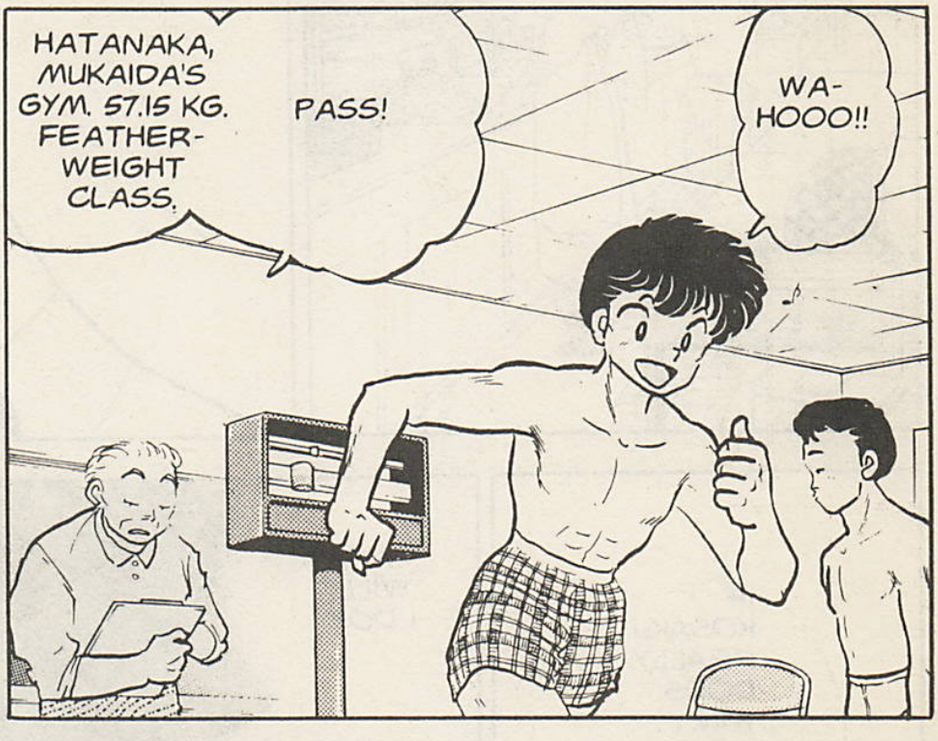

The night before the match. . .
SEE YOU TOMORROW, KURUSU.
I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE WEIGH-IN, OK?
YEAH . . .
SATELLITE BROADCAST BIG SCREEN
UH. . .
IF I. . .
WHAT ?
UM... NOTHING. G'NIGHT.
JUST REMEMBER! FIGHT! FIGHT!
F-FORGIVE ME. . .


The convent
IT'S TOMORROW, ISN'T IT?
KURUSU'S DEBUT MATCH?
HIS OPPONENT IS THAT MAN, ISN'T IT?
THE ONE WHO WAS BOTHERING SISTER ANGELA. . .
eep
SHUSH.
IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH.
MY APOLOGIES, MOTHER ABBESS.
THIS WAS A TRIAL THAT THE LORD GAVE SISTER ANGELA.
WHY, EVEN I. . .
. . .WHEN I WAS YOUNG, HAD TO STRUGGLE TO KEEP MY FAITH, LEAVING MANY MEN BY THE WAYSIDE.
YOU . . .?
GASP

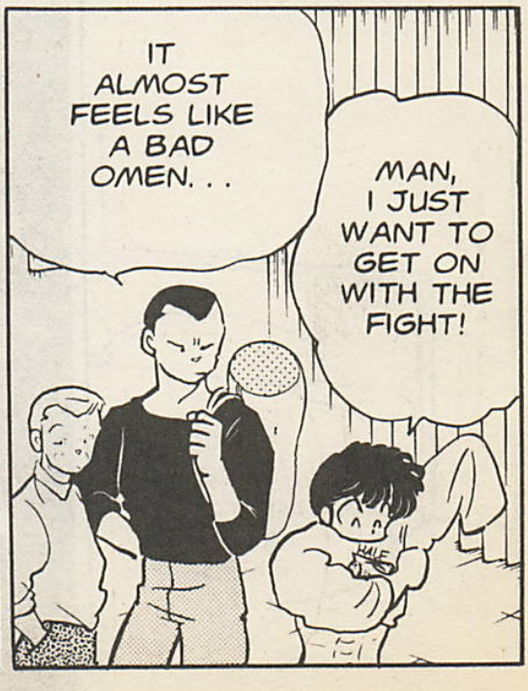

"LET'S LIVE TOGETHER... LIVE TOGETHER..."
WHY DIDN'T...
WHY DIDN'T I JUST SHOUT "NO" RIGHT THEN?
IF KOSAKU REALLY DOES WIN...
...WHAT WILL I DO?

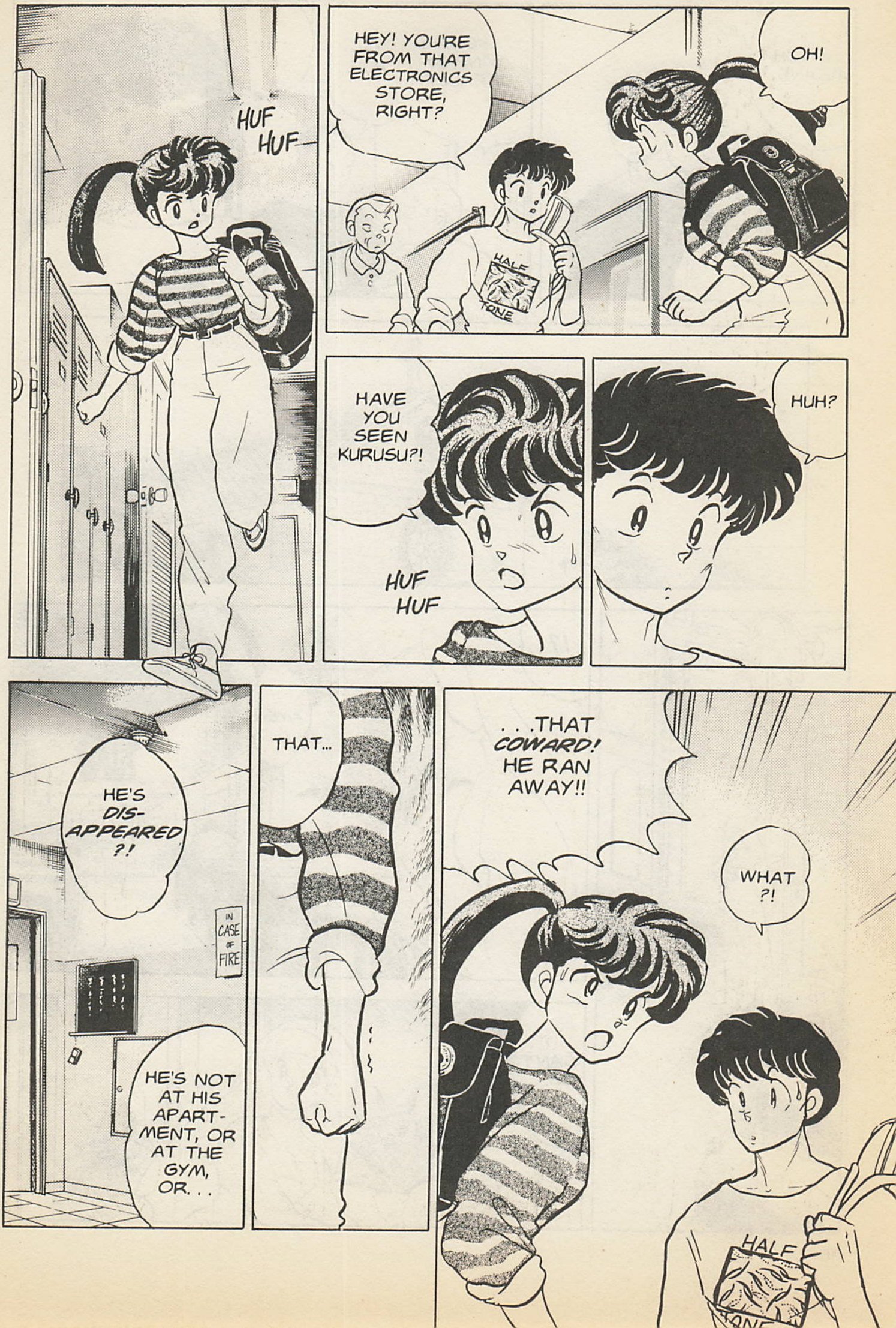

Shiseino
BEARD B NONE
Shiseino
MEN'S COSMETICS
"She Say Yes!"
The day of the fight...

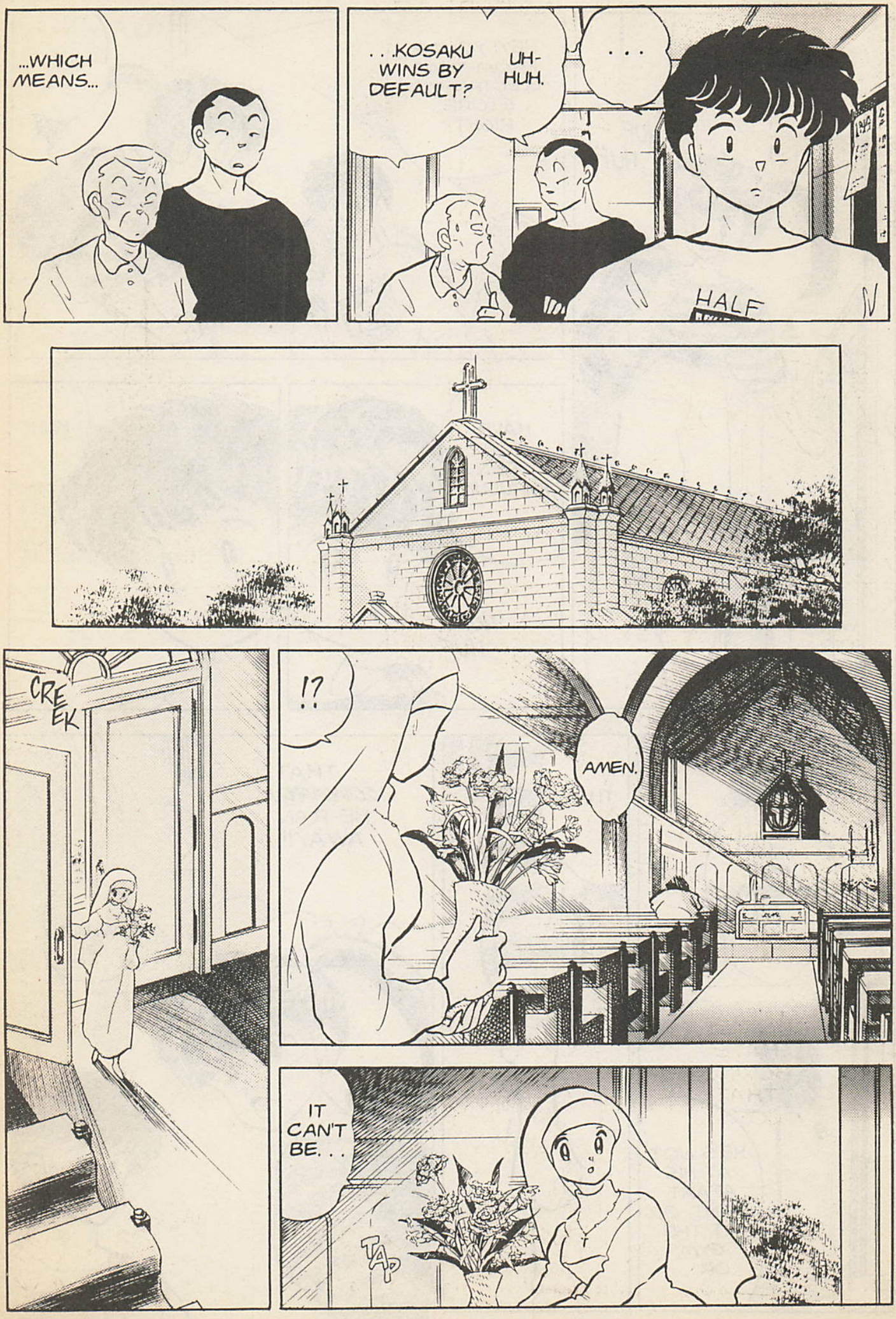

9:00AM: Weigh-in.

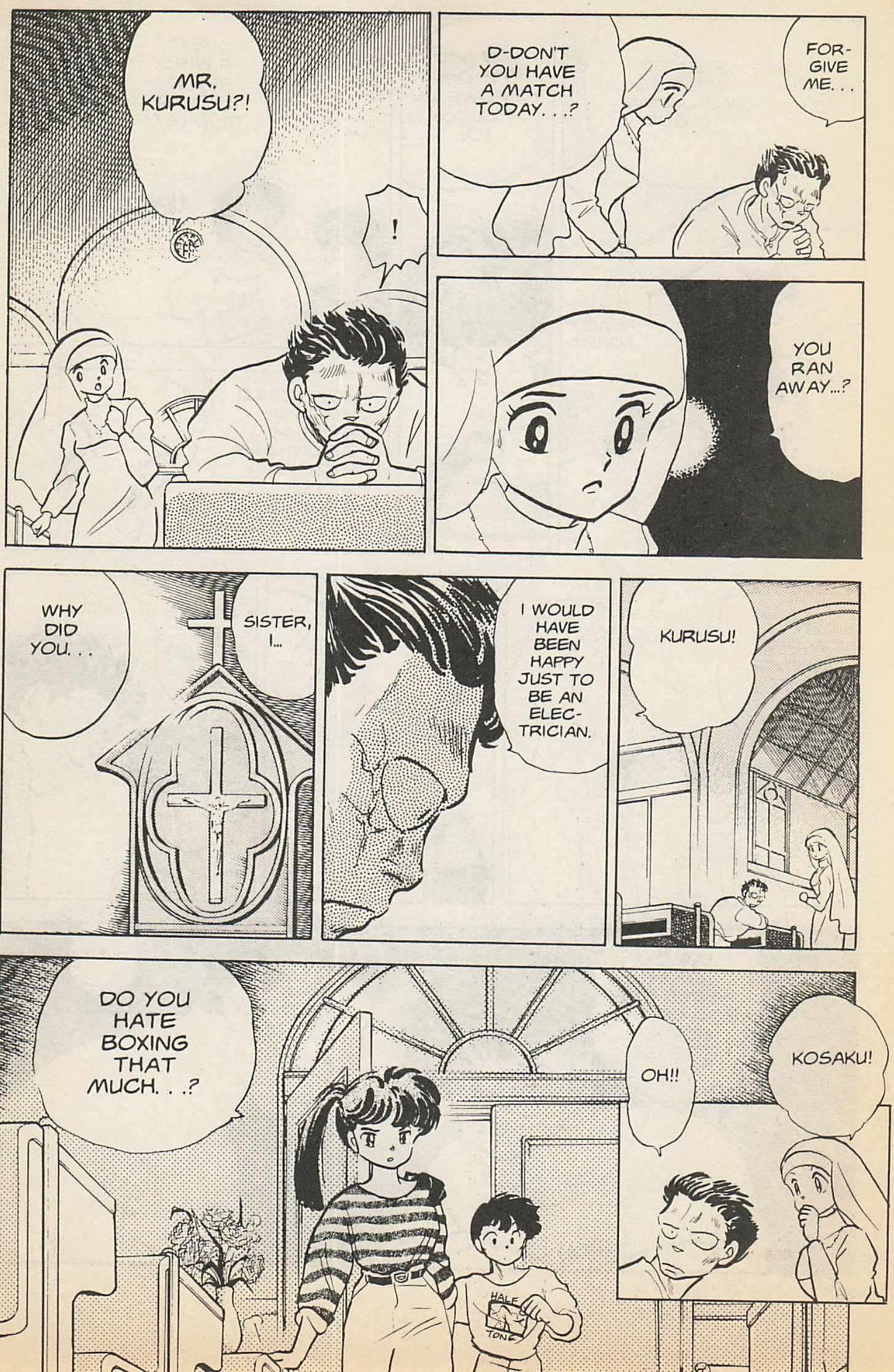

HATANAKA, MUKAIDA'S GYM. 57.15 KG. FEATHER-WEIGHT CLASS.
PASS!
WA-HOOO!!

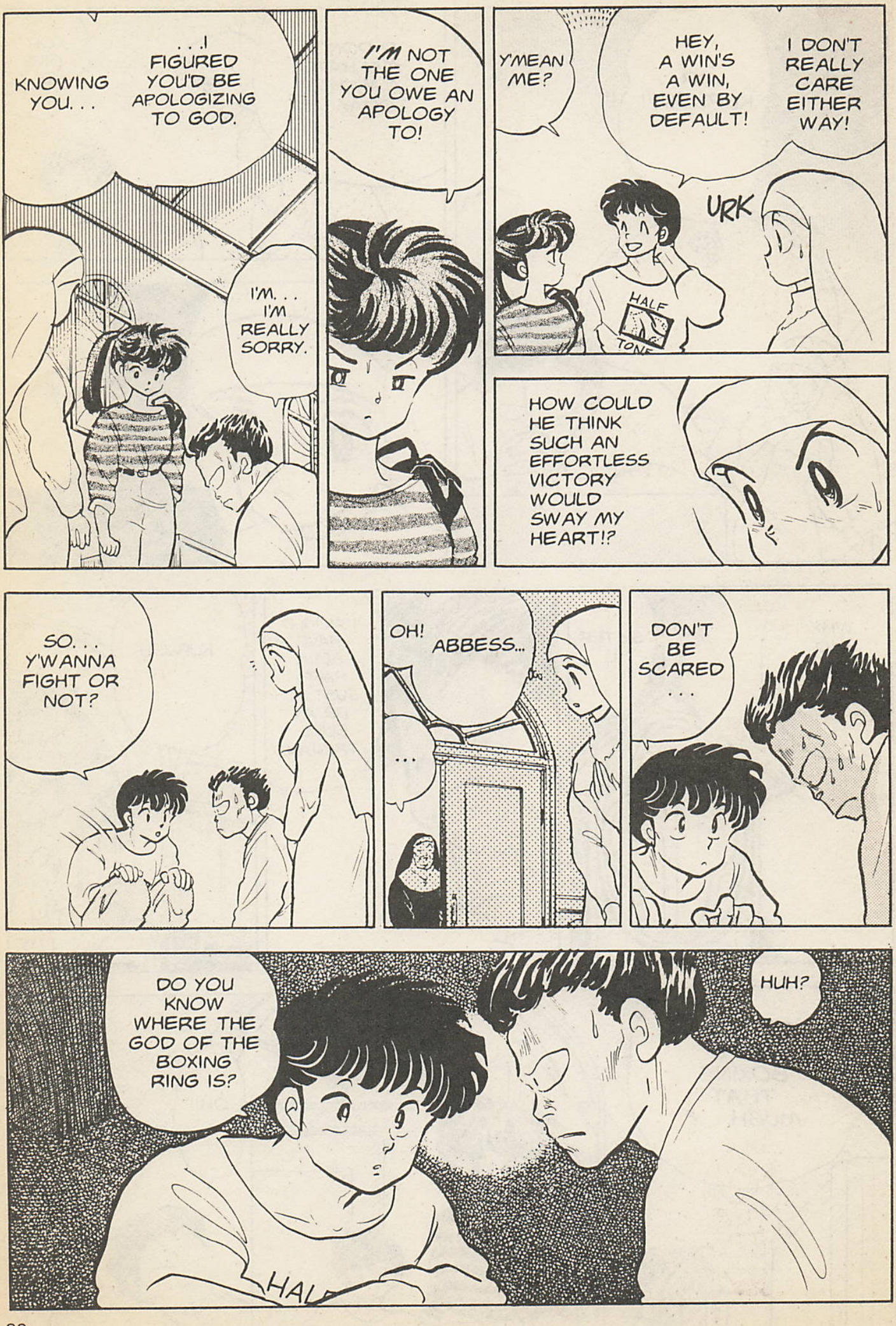
KOSAKU... PASSING A WEIGH-IN LIKE IT'S NOTHING...

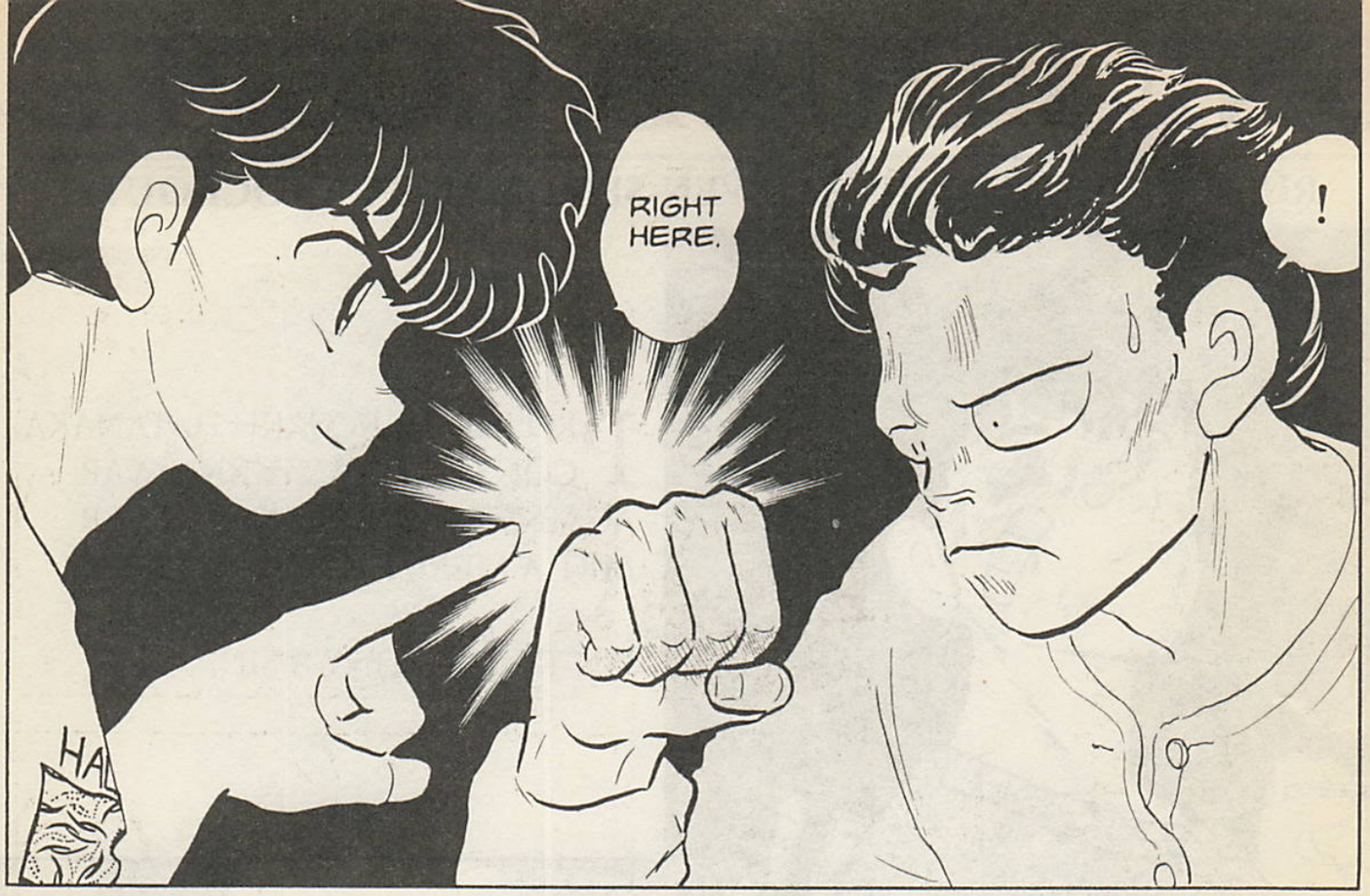

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A BAD OMEN...
MAN, I JUST WANT TO GET ON WITH THE FIGHT!

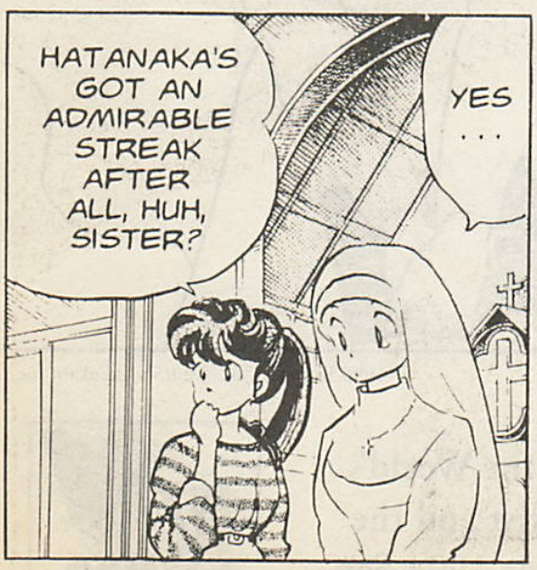

HUF HUF
HEY! YOU'RE FROM THAT ELECTRONICS STORE, RIGHT?
OH!
HALF TONE
HAVE YOU SEEN KURUSU?!
HUF HUF
HUH?
HE'S DIS-APPEARED ?!
IN CASE OF FIRE
HE'S NOT AT HIS APART-MENT, OR AT THE GYM, OR. . .
THAT...
. . .THAT COWARD! HE RAN AWAY!!
WHAT ?!
HALF

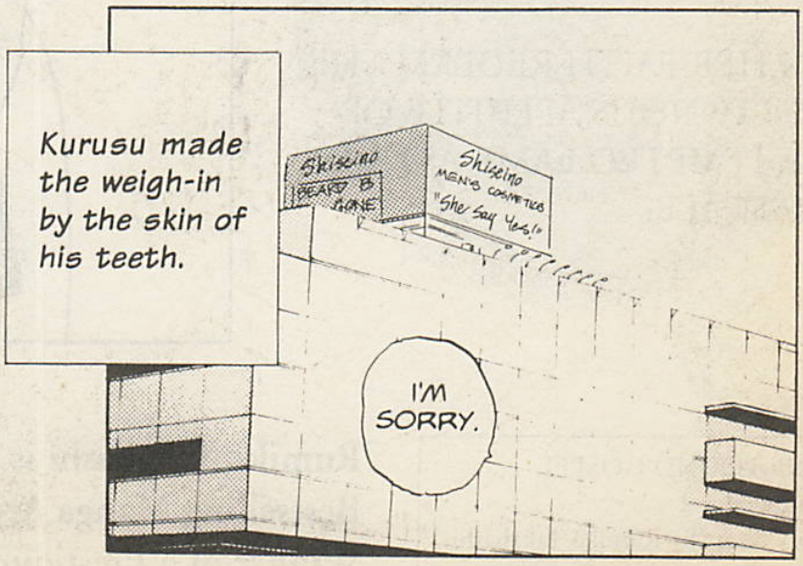

...WHICH MEANS...
. . .KOSAKU WINS BY DEFAULT?
UH-HUH.
. . .
HALF
CREEK
!?
AMEN.
IT CAN'T BE. . .
TAP


MR. KURUSU?!
!
D-DON'T YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY...?
FOR-GIVE ME...
YOU RAN AWAY...?
WHY DID YOU...
SISTER, I...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY JUST TO BE AN ELEC-TRICIAN.
KURUSU!
DO YOU HATE BOXING THAT MUCH...?
OH!!
KOSAKU!
HALF TONE


KNOWING YOU...
...I FIGURED YOU'D BE APOLOGIZING TO GOD.
I'M... I'M REALLY SORRY.
I'M NOT THE ONE YOU OWE AN APOLOGY TO!
Y'MEAN ME?
HEY, A WIN'S A WIN, EVEN BY DEFAULT!
I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY!
URK
HALF TONE
HOW COULD HE THINK SUCH AN EFFORTLESS VICTORY WOULD SWAY MY HEART!?
SO... Y'WANNA FIGHT OR NOT?
OH! ABBESS...
...
DON'T BE SCARED...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE GOD OF THE BOXING RING IS?
HUH?







TO BE CONTINUED. . .

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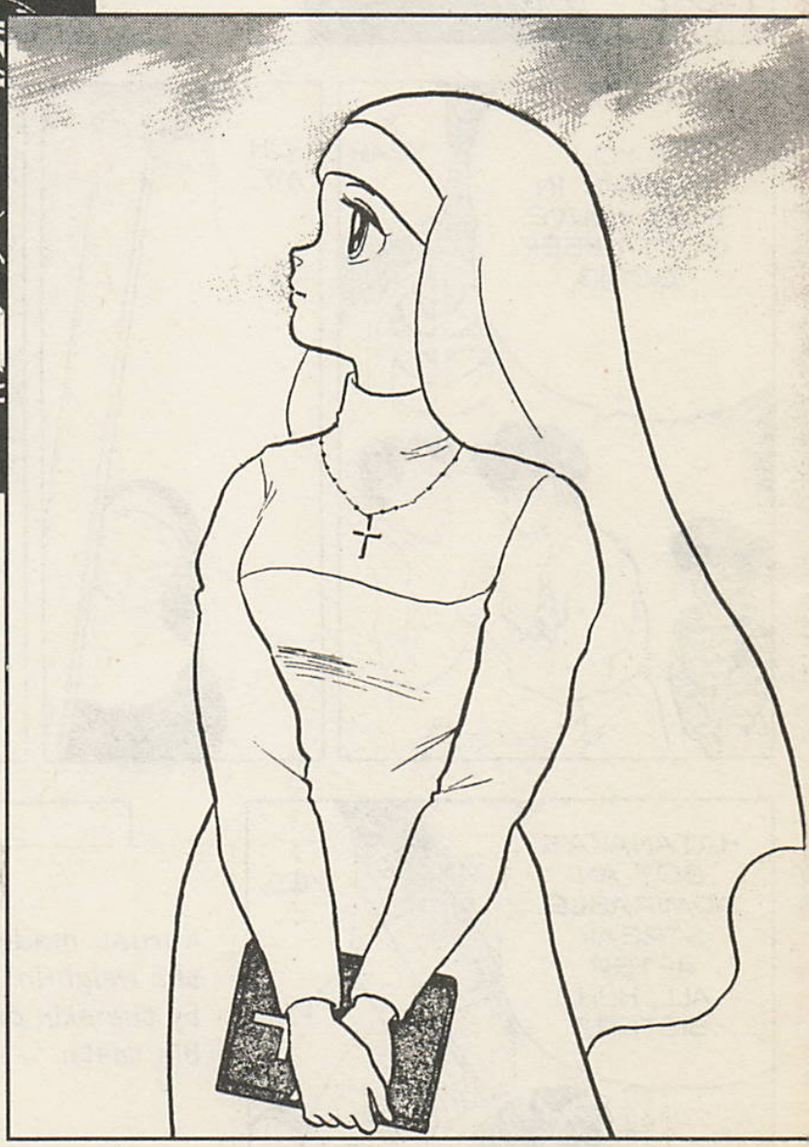
PRO BOXER KOSAKU HATANAKA, CONSTANTLY WAGING WAR AGAINST HIS APPETITE, NEVER MET A MEAL HE DIDN'T LIKE!

ISN'T GLUTTONY A SIN?

SISTER ANGELA IS A YOUNG NOVICE NUN WHO'S DEDICATED AND PASSIONATE, CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD GIVE PEACE A CHANCE.

CAN HER FAITH REDEEM THE GLUTTONOUS APPETITE OF THE TEMPTED LAMB ASTRIDE THE SCALE?



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